

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center
Bethel, Alaska
October 13, 2017
9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lester Wilde, Chair
Robert Aloysius
John Andrew
David Bill
William Brown
James Charles
Annie Cleveland
Dorothy Johnson
Raymond Oney
Michael Peters
Dale Smith - (Telephonic)
Anthony Ulak

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (Bethel, Alaska - 10/13/2017)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting to
8 order. Good morning. The time is now 9:00 o'clock.
9 First on the agenda we have open discussion from anyone
10 that would like to address the Council at this time.
11 We do that first thing in the morning and the first
12 person this morning is Mr. Patrick Samson.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
15 we could do a welcome and introduction so we know who's
16 joined us also on teleconference and in the room this
17 morning. We're welcome to go ahead with our public
18 testimony and then make sure we know who has joined us
19 today.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

22
23 MR. SAMSON: Good morning, Mr.
24 Chairman.

25
26 Qu yana.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Please state your name
29 and where you're from, please.

30
31 MR. SAMSON: Patrick Samson. I live
32 here in Bethel. I grew up in Kipnuk though.

33
34 (In Yup'ik)

35
36 INTERPRETER: These waterfowls and the
37 migratory birds, this is in regards to migratory birds.
38 I grew up along the coast during springtime. Surf
39 Scoters, the black birds around the coast.....

40
41 MR. SAMSON:Lesser Scaup, Black
42 Surf Scoter.

43
44 INTERPRETER: In 1982 I moved to
45 Bethel. As I was watching these people from here I
46 know the people from Eek, Napakiak, Napaskiak and the
47 tundra villages, Kalskag to Akiachak. They hunt during
48 springtime. They hunt the Surf Scoters, the black
49 birds. We hunt the waterfowls.

50

1 During their nesting season we don't
2 hunt them, all the swans. They move towards there and
3 then this area starts hunting them, the waterfowls,
4 Surf Scoters. They start laying eggs around July 4.
5 Later, after the geese have laid their eggs, the
6 Scoters get their eggs. They always say we can't hunt
7 them. That's when we really should be hunting them.

8
9 In Bethel here, I stayed here by the
10 boat harbor my boat is stored at. When I go on a trip
11 with my boat, I see Fish and Game checking everything
12 to check what we caught or during summertime they think
13 we're fishing or something. That's my complaint, that
14 the birds, when you guys close them and then when we
15 get there, the Fish and Wildlife troopers check our
16 catch and they were saying that we caught Scoters, we
17 get citations. They take everything we took along with
18 us. They take our guns.

19
20 How can we fix this? I think we need
21 to make another season for the waterfowls besides the
22 geese. When the geese starts laying eggs, the Surf
23 Scoters, those are the little other waterfowls, the
24 black ducks. We should extend the season a little bit.
25 I think that would be better for the hunters.

26
27 That's what I wanted to talk to you
28 guys about. I'm sorry, I'm stumbling on myself. If
29 you guys have any questions, I can answer it.

30
31 That's all I have to say.

32
33 Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
36 Samson.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none.
41 Thank you. We are down on our meeting schedule to
42 discussion on rural regional proposals with no
43 customary and traditional use determination.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
46 Quickly, before we start with that we can check in with
47 folks who have joined us on teleconference so we know
48 who we've got online with us today.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry. Is
2 anyone out there on teleconference.

3
4 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
5 My name is Jeff Estensen. I'm with the Alaska
6 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries,
7 Yukon area, Fall Season Manager, calling from
8 Fairbanks. Just to let you know that I'm also
9 available for any questions when you get into the
10 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program section.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

15
16 Anyone else.

17
18 MR. SMITH: Good morning, this is Dale.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning.

21
22 MS. BRUMMER: Good morning. This is
23 Christine Brummer at OSM.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else.

26
27 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning. This is
28 Carol Damberg in Anchorage, Regional Subsistence
29 Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Good morning.
32 Anyone else.

33
34 MS. CARROLL: Good morning. This is
35 Holly Carroll, Yukon Area Summer Season Manager for
36 Fish and Game in Anchorage.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Good
39 morning.

40
41 Anyone else.

42
43 MR. SHARP: Yeah, this is Dan Sharp
44 with Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage. Good
45 morning.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning, Dan.

48
49 Anyone else.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I guess that's it with
4 all our teleconference people.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Welcome
7 everyone again this morning. I see all the familiar
8 faces, folks that have joined us here yesterday. Just
9 a couple reminders. If folks can sign in when you come
10 in. We have headsets at the back for Yup'ik
11 interpretation. And coffee and goodies to keep folks
12 going through the meeting.

13

14 For all the Council Members you have a
15 copy of -- there's a list of the proposals that are
16 technically statewide because there is no C&T
17 determination. In discussion with Council Chair Lester
18 Wilde, he wanted to bring these before the Council for
19 your awareness and if the Council had any interest in
20 discussing these or to take action to defer these
21 proposals to the home region.

22

23 Most of these proposals are from the
24 Southeast Region within Alaska and then there's a
25 couple you'll see Unit 11 and 13, 25B, 25C. So they're
26 not directly relevant to the Y-K Delta Region; however,
27 there was no customary and traditional use
28 determination for these subsistence resources. So
29 technically all qualified rural Federal subsistence
30 users could hunt in these regions. So that's why
31 they're considered statewide proposals, but they're not
32 directly relevant to the Y-K Delta Region.

33

34 Our Chair Lester Wilde wanted to bring
35 this to the Council's attention and see if anyone had
36 any interest in any of these proposals or to take
37 action to defer them to the home region.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the wish of
40 the Council? These proposals, like Eva said, they're
41 mainly southeast and out of our area so we could either
42 work on them or we could defer them back to the
43 Councils are from the area these proposals are from.

44

45 What is the wish of the Council on
46 these proposals.

47

48 There's Proposal WP18-03, modify
49 hunting and trapping seasons for wolves in Unit 1.

50

1 WP18-04, increase harvest quota for
2 wolves in Unit 2.

3
4 WP18-05, lengthen hunting and trapping
5 seasons for wolves in Unit 3.

6
7 WP18-06, increase season and harvest
8 limit for black bear in Unit 2.

9
10 WP18-13, remove trap marking
11 requirements for Units 1 and 5.

12
13 WP18-14, extend hunting and trapping
14 seasons for wolverine in Units 11 and 13.

15
16 WP18-24, allow use of snowmachine to
17 position caribou, wolf and wolverine in Unit 17.

18
19 WP18-30, shorten season, decrease
20 harvest and possession limit for ptarmigan in Unit 18.

21
22 MS. PATTON: So Mr. Chair and
23 Council.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, we've already
26 taken care of that.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Right. That's on this
29 list because it came before other Councils for the same
30 reason that there is no C&T. So far all the other
31 Councils and Chairs have deferred this proposal to the
32 home region, so they've done the same thing with that
33 one for the Y-K Delta.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And WP18-34, extend
36 lynx trapping season in Unit 24A.

37
38 WP18-53(a) is establish customary and
39 traditional use determination for moose in Units 25B
40 and 25C.

41
42 The last one is WP18-53(b) extend moose
43 season in Unit 25B.

44
45 What is the wish of the Council.

46
47 Mr. Aloysius.

48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move
50

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1 that we take no action on these items 18-03 to 18-
2 53(b).
3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion is made by
5 Mr. Bob Aloysius to take no action on the proposals 18-
6 03 to 18-24 and 18-34 to 53 because we acted on 18-30
7 yesterday.
8

9 Do I hear a second to the motion.
10

11 MR. ULAK: Second.
12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Ulak.
14

15 Any further discussion.
16

17 (No comments)
18

19 MR. ULAK: Question.
20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question is called
22 for. All in favor signify by saying aye.
23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
27

28 (No opposing votes)
29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion is carried.
31 Then we also have one more item that's not on the
32 agenda if somebody would like to suspend the rule so we
33 can discuss the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Working Group.
34

35 Just one item that we'd like to discuss
36 prior to going into our regular agenda if it's all
37 right with you guys.
38

39 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chair. I move to suspend
40 the rules to hear that proposal.
41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion has been
43 made to suspend the rules by Mr. Oney.
44

45 Do I hear a second.
46

47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.
48

49 MR. PETERS: Second.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All in favor say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion is carried.

10

11 This is a letter from -- Eva, could you
12 go ahead and explain this, please.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
15 This is essentially a request coming from the Western
16 Interior Advisory Council that met two days prior to
17 this meeting. They had discussed interest in forming a
18 Mulchatna Caribou Herd Working Group. So the Western
19 Interior Council had already made a motion and selected
20 three people from their Council to serve on this
21 working group, but they were interested in working with
22 the other Councils within this caribou herd region, so
23 they had extended an invitation essentially to the Y-K
24 Delta RAC and to the Bristol Bay RAC.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you speak up a
27 little bit.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Sorry. If this Council
30 was interested to form a working group to nominate
31 several people to participate in discussions on the
32 management of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and be able to
33 participate in discussions with the Western Interior
34 Mulchatna Caribou Herd Working Group. Bristol Bay has
35 not met yet, but they have also extended this
36 invitation.

37

38 From the Western Interior Council they
39 nominated Dennis Thomas, Ray Collins and Jack Reakoff,
40 who would be the Western Interior RAC members
41 participating in their working group. So it's an
42 invitation to this Council if the Council were
43 interested to form a similar working group and that
44 would allow discussions on Mulchatna Herd management
45 issues with the other RAC Councils outside of the
46 regular meeting cycle. Their interest was just to
47 share information and efforts for coordinating
48 management interest in this herd.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any discussion from
2 the Council concerning this.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would anybody like to
7 volunteer to work on the working group with caribou?

8
9 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair, this is Dale.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead.

12
13 MR. SMITH: In regards to the working
14 group, does it have to be from the RAC or can other
15 organizations partake?

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
18 in terms of the Council establishing a working group,
19 that would need to be Council members. Essentially the
20 Council is nominating people to represent them to meet
21 and discuss information. The working group is not like
22 a subcommittee, so they're not authorized to make
23 recommendations on behalf of the Council, but they're
24 authorized to do work for the Council and then bring
25 that information back to the Council.

26
27 That working group can work with
28 others, so others are welcome to -- if there's a
29 teleconference working group, for example, to work on
30 issues about the herd, then others can be brought into
31 that discussion and that's part of the intent of a
32 working group is it helps Councils stay engaged on
33 issues of importance and be able to network and
34 communicate with people and then bring that information
35 back to the Council as a whole when the Council meets.

36
37 So to answer your question, the short
38 answer is, yes, others can be brought into the
39 discussions, but the working group itself would need to
40 be RAC member representatives.

41
42 MR. SMITH: Okay, thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You're welcome. Any
45 volunteers.

46
47 If there is none, no volunteers, do you
48 want me to assign a couple of you guys.

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'd rather see
6 volunteers.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Yeah, we do want it to be
9 volunteers. If there's an interest in -- if Council
10 members feel they have knowledge and engagement in the
11 Mulchatna Caribou Herd management, to be engaged in
12 those discussions outside of the Council meetings.

13

14 There's no need to appoint folks if
15 there isn't interest.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is there any -- well,
20 if the group has to meet somewhere, is there
21 transportation or is it telephonic or what's the way
22 the group is going to operate?

23

24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
25 That's a very good question and the reality of the
26 budgets right now, primary support for the Council is
27 for the Regional Advisory Council meetings and the
28 Chairs' participation in the Board meetings. We have
29 formed working groups similar to this with the North
30 Slope and Northwest Arctic Councils around the Western
31 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. Those meetings have
32 needed to be via teleconference, so there is no funding
33 associated for travel with the working groups
34 unfortunately. So it's all by teleconference, which is
35 an important consideration because it's a challenge to
36 work by teleconference.

37

38 MR. ALOYSIUS: That let's me out
39 because I can't hear.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any volunteers.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, then we'll
48 bring this up later and discuss it later.

49

50

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1 In the meantime we're going to go ahead
2 and go down our agenda. We've got a long agenda to
3 work with today. So we'll get down to 2018 Fisheries
4 Resource Monitoring Program and this will be presented
5 by our friend Ms. Kenner.

6
7 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
9 Pippa Kenner and I'm an anthropologist at the Office of
10 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

11
12 My goal today -- actually I'm going to
13 back up. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
14 materials begin on Page 24 of your Council book and
15 copies for those attending can be found on the table in
16 the back of the room.

17
18 My goal today is to present you with a
19 brief overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
20 Program and its accomplishment to date.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Just one moment, please. I
23 just wanted to let the Council know that the FRMP
24 document is in your meeting books and you would be able
25 to find the FRMP on Page 24.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's what she said.

28
29 MS. KENNER: Next slide. I'll review
30 the funding process, your regional overview and finish
31 up by requesting Council comments on the proposed 2018
32 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the Kuskokwim,
33 Yukon and multi-Alaska Regions.

34
35 Slide.

36
37 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
38 Program is a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort
39 that enhances subsistence fisheries research and
40 provides necessary information for the management of
41 subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands in
42 Alaska. We encourage partnerships between tribes,
43 rural organizations, universities and Federal and State
44 agencies. In addition, we encourage interdisciplinary
45 approaches to conducting research and addressing
46 issues.

47
48 The Monitoring Program is administered
49 through the Office of Subsistence Management in order
50

1 to advance projects of strategic importance to the
2 Federal Subsistence Management Program. It also
3 coordinates communications and information sharing of
4 ongoing and new subsistence research efforts.

5
6 Since its inception in 2000, the
7 Monitoring Program has funded 452 projects statewide
8 with a total allocation of close to \$117 million. The
9 following figures demonstrate both the allocation of
10 funds and the number of projects funded through the
11 Monitoring Program by the organization of the principal
12 investigator. It should be noted that some of these
13 funds have been used by the principal investigator
14 organization to subcontract with research partners such
15 as communities, tribes and other research
16 organizations.

17
18 This slide demonstrates the allocation
19 of funds by region. Budget guidelines provide an
20 initial target for planning; however, they are not
21 final and are often adjusted as needed to ensure that
22 we fund quality projects.

23
24 Now I'm going to go into how the
25 monitoring program funding process works. The State is
26 divided into six regions that approximately correspond
27 to Federal subsistence fisheries areas and to stock,
28 harvest and community issues that those areas hold in
29 common.

30
31 For each of the six regions Office of
32 Subsistence Management Staff works with Regional
33 Advisory Councils and Federal and State fishery and
34 land managers to ensure the monitoring program focuses
35 on the highest priority subsistence fishery information
36 needs. Input and guidance from Councils are used to
37 develop priority information needs by identifying
38 issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to
39 subsistence fisheries.

40
41 Ideally, principal investigators work
42 closely with Councils to develop strong proposals that
43 are responsive to those needs. The Office of
44 Subsistence Management provides technical assistance as
45 needed.

46
47 The program requests new projects every
48 two years. Submissions must be complete, on time and
49 address five criteria outlines in the notice of funding
50

1 opportunity in order to be competitive. Those criteria
2 are strategic priority including priority information
3 need, technical, scientific merit, investigateability
4 in resources, partnership and capacity building and the
5 cost benefit of the project. A more detailed
6 description of the five criteria can be found on Page
7 29 of your book.

8
9 Once submitted a Technical Review
10 Committee evaluates and rates each proposed project.
11 The Technical Review Committee is a standing
12 interagency committee of senior technical experts
13 brought together to ensure program transparency. It is
14 the responsibility of the Technical Review Committee to
15 develop the strongest possible monitoring program for
16 your region and across the state based on high quality
17 best cost effective projects that address critical
18 subsistence questions.

19
20 During the proposal evaluation process
21 the Technical Review Committee adheres to specific
22 guidelines in order to assess how well a project
23 addressed the five criteria. While some agencies may
24 have more than one senior expert on the Committee, i.e.
25 a social scientist or fisheries biologist for example,
26 each agency only provides one single consolidated
27 review and will not score their own proposals. The
28 final score for each proposal is based on an assessment
29 of the five criteria.

30
31 Once a draft monitoring program is
32 developed, it is brought before the Regional Advisory
33 Councils for their input and comments. This is where
34 we are in the cycle and we'll come back to it in a
35 moment.

36
37 Additional comments on the process and
38 draft monitoring program in the Kuskokwim, Yukon and
39 multi-regions are provided by the Interagency Staff
40 Committee and these, along with those developed by the
41 Councils are then forwarded on to the Federal
42 Subsistence Board.

43
44 The Board takes into consideration
45 comments and concerns generated by the process and
46 endorsed the funding plan. Final approval of the
47 funding plan is made by the Assistant Regional Director
48 of OSM.

1 Now we're going to talk about these
2 regions, the Kuskokwim, Yukon and a multi-region. In
3 the Kuskokwim Region of Alaska 100 projects have been
4 undertaken for approximately \$27 million in funding.
5 Project leads were predominantly held by the State of
6 Alaska or the Department of Interior mainly through the
7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. But remember most of
8 these projects also included other agencies in Alaska
9 rural organizations as research partners.

10
11 For 2018 there is an anticipated \$1-1.5
12 million available for new projects statewide and up to
13 \$1.6 million for ongoing, already-funded projects.
14 Please note that the available funding for 2018 is
15 budgeted for each project year's first year, not the
16 total project request. For the Kuskokwim Region, nine
17 projects were submitted. The projects are listed in
18 order by the strength of their Technical Review
19 Committee scores. Justifications from the Technical
20 Review Committee for the project order beginning on
21 Page 35 of your Council book and project abstracts can
22 be found on Page 48.

23
24 In the Yukon Region of Alaska 114
25 projects have been undertaken for approximately \$20.6
26 million in funding. Project leads were predominantly
27 held by the Department of Interior or the State of
28 Alaska. For the Yukon Region, nine projects were
29 submitted. The projects are listed in order by the
30 strength of their Technical Review Committee scores.
31 Justifications for project order begin on Page 62 of
32 your Council book and project abstracts can be found on
33 Page 74.

34
35 The multi-region category, there have
36 been 16 projects undertaken for approximately \$2.5
37 million in funding. Project leads were predominantly
38 held by the State of Alaska. For the multi-region
39 category, two projects were submitted. The projects
40 are listed in order by the strength of their Technical
41 Review Committee scores. Justifications for project
42 order begin on Page 88 of your Council book and the
43 project abstracts can be found on Page 91.

44
45 So once again we are here at step four
46 of the FRMP funding process. We are looking for your
47 input and comments on the draft monitoring program for
48 your region. Again, no motion is necessary.

49
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 I'm ready to take your questions and
4 then I'm ready to record your comments.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pippa. Any
7 questions for Ms. Kenner.

8

9 Mr. Brown.

10

11 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

12

13 INTERPRETER: We just watched on the
14 video. It has been a long time since the working group
15 -- I have been helping with the working group for quite
16 a while. This is a volunteer position, so we don't get
17 any stipends or anything like that, but we still
18 participate whenever they call us to whenever they're
19 going to meet, the grouping group. I, myself, I have a
20 fish camp downriver at Eek.

21

22 Sometimes when our work is done we
23 request for reimbursement for the expenses because I
24 travel from my camp to the village and I pay my own
25 money, my own way. I use my boat to go to attend the
26 meetings. Is there a way since we are volunteers
27 participating in the working group are you able to ask
28 for fundings for our working group?

29

30 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Brown, for
31 that question. For the record, this is Pippa Kenner
32 with OSM. I'm not fully prepared to answer that
33 question. The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
34 Working Group is a committee that was chartered by
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Through the
36 Monitoring Program they have requested funding for up
37 to half of the expenses of running the working group.
38 We also have representation from the two Regional
39 Advisory Councils representing the Kuskokwim Region.

40

41 We received the request for funding
42 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. That
43 request has not included funding for travel for working
44 group members except for twice a year when the working
45 group meets together in person.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Brown.

48

49 CHARLIE BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

50

1 INTERPRETER: We've been thinking
2 sometimes, you know, the State workers do they get the
3 money from the State and is the meeting included during
4 that week. There's always time, you know, 40 hours a
5 week and then after that some of them can't get
6 overtime. We used to meet during the weekends, the
7 ones that sat on the Council before. The meetings that
8 they held during the twice a year officials. We are
9 thinking that they get fundings from -- is it included
10 with their compensation or how does it work, their
11 meeting stipends? Getting funds for their work and
12 meeting stipends. Do they get meeting stipends at the
13 same time?

14
15 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
16 question. Mr. Chair.

17
18 I missed the beginning of your
19 question, so when you're talking about a stipend, what
20 group are you talking about?

21
22 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

23
24 INTERPRETER: The people that work
25 under the State, they always joined us when we had our
26 meeting. When they get money, how does it go?

27
28 MS. KENNER: Thank you again for the
29 question. Mr. Chair. Yes, they are salaried employees
30 and they do receive travel expenses if they're
31 traveling away from the community they live in and I'm
32 not sure how one deals with the overtime issue. I
33 can't speak to that. Again, we don't fund the entire
34 program through the FRMP.

35
36 Now what is applicable to the
37 conversation we're having now is that the working group
38 has come up for funding. We have been requested to
39 fund it for four years, four years of funding, and that
40 four years of funding is about to end and the Alaska
41 Department of Fish and Game has come to us once again
42 and requested funding through the FRMP for the working
43 group.

44
45 So if you look on Page 34 in your
46 Council book, what you will see is that the support for
47 cooperative management of the Kuskokwim River
48 subsistence salmon fishery is tied for sixth place in
49 the scores from the Technical Review Committee. The
50

1 justification for that score is in the pages right
2 after this table and then there's an abstract or a
3 description of what the project is.

4
5 Is there something about the funds the
6 State requested from us for this project that you would
7 like to comment on? So one of the comments I heard
8 from Mr. Brown is additional funding for travel
9 expenses for working group members and I'm going to
10 take that comment and incorporate it into the Council
11 comments and it will be delivered to the Federal
12 Subsistence Board.

13
14 Currently there is not funding in the
15 budget to cover those types of travel expenses in the
16 request from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

17
18 MR. BROWN: Quyana. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments or
21 questions for Pippa concerning the Monitoring Program.

22
23 Mr. Peters.

24
25 MR. PETERS: I got a question on
26 looking at the percentage in the Yukon is 18 for 2016
27 and in the Yukon like up in my area at Marshall 29
28 percent and what that -- my question is would the
29 projects on the Yukon -- you know, my concern would be
30 like a breakdown like you have it on the Kuskokwim and
31 how much money is allocated to our area or to my area,
32 where I'm from. Because with this Monitoring Program I
33 feel it's very important for our area.

34
35 With some of these ones that are funded
36 now, if we're to ask for additional for the monitoring,
37 like coming from my area, and like for the percentage,
38 how much percentage of the pie we get from this
39 Monitoring Program if we want to ask for more projects
40 in our area.

41
42 That's something I thought I'd bring up
43 to your attention because I see the percentage and
44 stuff like that. How much money would be allocated to
45 us if we were to ask for some additional projects that
46 the people would be expecting? That's something I
47 thought I'd ask.

48
49 I could always be corrected if I'm
50

1 wrong.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
6 question. Mr. Chair. Historically, for the almost 20
7 years of the Monitoring Program about 18 percent of the
8 Monitoring Program funds have gone to the Yukon Region.

9

10 MS. PATTON: That pie chart is on Page
11 27 that shows the percentage of funds that go to each
12 region within the FRMP region.

13

14 MS. KENNER: Another question I heard
15 from you is where a similar table is for the Yukon and
16 it's on Page 61 and I'm looking for comments on that
17 list of projects that we received -- proposals that we
18 received for funding. Right now I am looking for -- in
19 the PowerPoint there is a table that shows for planning
20 purposes what the distribution of funding is for each
21 region. It is on Page 27. For the Yukon, for planning
22 purposes, 29 percent of the first year funding will go
23 to Yukon
24 projects.

25

26 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chair. Thank you. I
27 just want to ask about the percentage and how much
28 money afford a program in our area. How much money is
29 available in case they need to ask for additional
30 funding for ongoing projects.

31

32 That's very important to the area.

33

34

Thank you.

35

36 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
37 question. Mr. Chair.
38 The answer to that question is there's between \$1-1.5
39 million available, we hope. For planning purposes,
40 about 30 percent of
41 that would go to the Yukon Region. So it looks like if
42 you look on Page 61 at the proposals we received, that
43 would fund the top three, possibly four projects.

44

45 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chair. Thank you for
46 the information.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pippa. Any
49 further questions.

50

1 Mr. Charles.

2

3 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 So this is what has been paid to the Federal. Is it
5 already done or coming or going to pay for the season
6 monitoring?

7

8 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
9 question, Mr. Charles. Mr. Chair. These projects will
10 begin in spring 2018. The Board will meet in January
11 and discuss this draft plan, look at all the comments
12 and approve a final plan.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
19 might be able to answer two. Some of these projects
20 are funded currently and so that funding then runs
21 through 2018.

22

23 MS. DAMBERG: Through the Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who is that?

26

27 MS. DAMBERG: This is Carol Damberg on
28 the phone in Anchorage. Through the Chair, if I might
29 comment. My understanding is these projects that have
30 been ranked by the Technical Review Committee are being
31 provided to the RACs for their feedback and input and
32 if you see projects that you think are important that
33 aren't ranked high, you should point that out. And if
34 you see projects that are ranked high that you don't
35 see as important, you should note that you don't feel
36 they're as
37 important.

38

39 So this is really your opportunity to
40 provide feedback to the Federal Subsistence Board on
41 what your priorities are for these projects. Do they
42 meet what you guys feel are the highest priorities for
43 your region and your RAC.

44

45 Thank you, Chair.

46

47 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa again for
48 the record and I just wanted to comment that the order
49 that these projects are in are the Technical Review

50

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1 Committee's order and they're not going to change. So
2 rather than talking about what order they're in, it
3 might be better to talk about your understanding of the
4 different projects and aspects of them that are
5 particularly good or particularly not good.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And those projects are
8 on Page 61.

9
10 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. I suggest we
11 work through one region at a time. The Kuskokwim
12 projects in your book are listed on Page 34 in the
13 order they were scored by the TRC.

14
15 Should we start with the Kuskokwim and
16 move to the Yukon?

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

19
20 MS. KENNER: All right. So we're on
21 the Kuskokwim now on Page 34. There's nine projects.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And they are ranked,
24 as you can see, number one, Bethel In-season
25 Subsistence Harvest Survey.

26
27 Number two 18-351 is Kuskokwim Area
28 Salmon Post Season Subsistence Harvest Surveys.

29
30 Number three is George River Salmon
31 Weir.

32
33 Number four is Kwethluk River Salmon
34 Run Timing and Abundance.

35
36 Number five is Tuluksak River Salmon
37 Run Timing and Abundance.

38
39 Tied with number 5 is Kuskokwim River
40 Sonar.

41
42 And tied at number six is 18-352 is
43 Support for Cooperative Management of the Kuskokwim
44 River Subsistence Salmon Fishery.

45
46 MS. PATTON: That's the working group.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Also tied at number
49 six 18-300 is the

50

1 Kuskokwim River Broad Whitefish.

2

3 And number seven is Inferring
4 Production Patterns of Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon
5 Using Otolith Microchemistry and River Isoscapes.
6 Whatever that just said.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comments on these
11 proposals or rankings.

12

13 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. This is Dale.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Dale.

16

17 MR. SMITH: Yes, I just have a
18 question. I heard a gentleman speak yesterday. I
19 think his last name was Waska. He talked about the
20 late season in harvesting his subsistence resources.
21 Over the past several meetings I've been hearing
22 testimonies as well regarding the harvest of chinook
23 and the size of mesh. I just have a question regarding
24 those testimonies and concerns from the tribal folk in
25 the area here. Of these projects where does that fit?
26 I mean which project will address their concerns?

27

28 That's my question.

29

30 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
31 question, Mr. Smith. Mr. Chair. I think the best way
32 to answer that concern, which is a very good concern,
33 is that on Page 33 of your meeting books, in working
34 with both the Western Interior and the Yukon-Kuskokwim
35 Delta Councils, together we developed a list of
36 priority information needs. This list of priority
37 information needs in several ways addresses the concern
38 of Mr. Waska.

39

40 Funding for the working group has
41 supported the ability to people in-season talk about
42 the troubles they're having and the concerns they have
43 for the fishery. And then in other ways the priority
44 information needs that address salmon, particularly
45 chinook salmon, are ways of getting information so that
46 managers can better predict what the run size will be
47 and then in-season adjust those predictions in order to
48 provide the most opportunity they can through the
49 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, with the working group,

50

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1 with discussion between State and Federal managers.

2

3 The most opportunity and the earliest
4 opportunity they can for the harvest of chinook while
5 protecting subsistence uses but also managing for
6 healthy populations of chinook salmon.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions or
9 comments on the Kuskokwim.

10

11 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair, this is Dale.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who is that?

14

15 MR. SMITH: This is Dale.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, Dale, I'm sorry.

18 Go ahead.

19

20 MR. SMITH: Yeah, Pippa, so the
21 concerns that were being addressed like yesterday,
22 there was another gentleman I think spoke about the
23 size of the mesh of the netting. These concerns are
24 being addressed through these priority information
25 needs. Is that correct?

26

27 MS. KENNER: I believe they are.
28 Again, this is Pippa. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 MR. SMITH: Okay, thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Smith.
33 Are there any other comments from the Council or anyone
34 out there on the teleconference.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Comments from the
39 Council on the Kuskokwim list of the monitoring
40 program.

41

42 Yes, we have a question back there or a
43 comment from the Service.

44

45 MR. STAHLNECKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Council. This is Ken Stahlnecker with the Fish and
47 Wildlife Service. I'm the Refuge Manager for the Yukon
48 Delta National Wildlife Refuge and I serve as the in-
49 season manager in times when we need to place Federal

50

1 restrictions on the public waters of the Kuskokwim
2 River during the salmon season.

3
4 I just wanted to offer a little bit of
5 perspective on some of these projects and from the
6 Refuge standpoint. I just want to start by saying that
7 all of these projects are important. The problem is we
8 just simply don't have enough money. That makes the
9 issue very difficult and puts me in a difficult
10 position to even begin to try to sort out which of
11 these from in-season management standpoint is most
12 important.

13
14 If I understand Pippa's intention of
15 this, it's to seek Council input. Maybe not
16 necessarily to re-rank these, but to provide input on
17 the ranking.

18
19 So I guess the projects or couple of
20 projects that I wanted to provide a little perspective
21 on are in particular the -- I guess the main one would
22 be number four, the Kwethluk Weir project. From an in-
23 season management standpoint, when you look at some of
24 these top projects, the in-season harvest data that we
25 get, the number one project there is incredibly
26 valuable for us making daily and weekly in-season
27 management decisions. The post season harvest surveys
28 are incredibly important as well in terms of helping to
29 reconstruct what the run looked like.

30
31 The Kwethluk Weir project falls in that
32 same category. It's incredibly valuable from a
33 management standpoint in terms of being able to provide
34 information to managers about what the run looked like
35 and helps us project what the run may look like for
36 subsequent years, which is how we end up building a lot
37 of our post season and early season management
38 strategies and make our decisions on what kind of a
39 fishery it's going to look like, what kinds of
40 opportunities we may be able to provide and so forth.

41
42 I'm kind of focusing on Kwethluk
43 because it is one of the key tributaries within the
44 Refuge and it is a particularly good measure related to
45 Federal subsistence use within the Refuge. That's a
46 key tributary for us.

47
48 Again, the information that comes from
49 that particular weir helps us in terms of
50

1 reconstructing what a run looked like, projecting what
2 a future run may look like, but also in terms of
3 helping us understand how well we did in our management
4 from the previous year. Did we make escapement, what
5 do longer-term projections look like on that tributary.
6

7 So I just -- again, it's difficult to
8 try to put one in front of the other when they're all
9 so valuable, but I did want to speak particularly to
10 the Kwethluk Weir project. Similar comments with
11 Tuluksak, but in particular Kwethluk.
12

13 I guess I'll stop there at this point
14 unless there's any questions.
15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
17 either Pippa or for the gentleman.
18

19 Mr. Charles.
20

21 MR. CHARLES: Ken, that's a good
22 project you guys have in Kwethluk and I've seen it when
23 I was up there at that time. These should be funded
24 again and things like that because years ago I heard --
25 Mike Chase -- you've heard me before, some of you
26 people heard me before. Mike Chase, when he was
27 chairing the working group, told State biologist one
28 time you don't know where the salmon goes because you
29 don't swim upriver with the salmon.
30

31 (Laughter)
32

33 MR. CHARLES: I never forget that one
34 because that's a good point. Monitoring what's going
35 to happen next year and all that. So Bethel test
36 fishery is not the only thing. Nowadays we have a lot
37 of weirs upriver and the Federal government should keep
38 funding those.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments or
43 questions.
44

45 (No comments)
46

47 MS. KENNER: When you're ready, Mr.
48 Chair, we can move on to the Yukon Region.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there are no
2 further questions or comments on the Kuskokwim.

3
4 Mr. Andrew.

5
6 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Timothy Andrew with ONC. Like Mr. Stahlnecker had
8 indicated, all the projects on the Kuskokwim River are
9 very, very important for making good decisions on a
10 resource that we hold so precious and depend on. I
11 wish we had all the money to fund every single project
12 that would provide us the information to allow for
13 things like the harvest of salmon, when the timing is
14 best for drying while conserving the salmon that has
15 conservation concerns like our chinook salmon here on
16 the Kuskokwim in the more recent years.

17
18 I'd like to speak to two proposals that
19 are on the FRMP project. They're both held in high
20 priority. I thank the TRC for placing them in those
21 positions. Number one is the Bethel in-season test
22 fishery. This is very valuable, very important to the
23 people that are holding the management position because
24 Bethel is one of the largest consumers of salmon on the
25 Kuskokwim River by virtue of the amount of people that
26 we have here.

27
28 So the information that we gather
29 during the summer by taking fish camp surveys and also
30 the boat harbor surveys is held in very high regard in
31 the management of the salmon fishery. We also have a
32 very capable and very qualified person who investigates
33 this project on our own staff. You saw her performance
34 yesterday with the project that she had with our youth
35 and also with others.

36
37 The other one that I'd like to speak to
38 is the Kuskokwim River area salmon post season
39 subsistence harvest surveys. That is currently going
40 on. I don't really have that much history because I
41 just started with ONC this past June 5, but I've seen
42 the survey occur within the community. In fact, I'm
43 one of the people that have been surveyed by the
44 surveyors that are employed by this program.

45
46 Once again, Bethel is a very high
47 consumer of salmon and what people take here during the
48 season and what we find out in the post-season survey
49 is a very large contributor to managing Kuskokwim River
50

1 salmon resources. All the others are very important.

2

3 There's probably more important
4 information out there that we can possibly obtain if we
5 had more money, but given the current funding
6 environment that we are in it's quite understandable
7 that we have to limit the amount of money that's spent
8 in various regions.

9

10 Hopefully the funding environment
11 doesn't slip down so far that we can't make well-
12 informed and valuable management decisions of something
13 that we hold so dear and close to our heart. It's been
14 our cultural traditional resource for subsistence for
15 many, many years, since time immemorial and just would
16 like to provide that statement.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Andrew.

21

22 Yes, Pippa.

23

24 MS. KENNER: Thank you again, Mr.
25 Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. As we move
26 forward, I'd like to ask that we focus more on Council
27 comments. In my words, I'm trying carefully not to
28 lobby for any one project or another. As people
29 repeat, they're all important.

30

31 So maybe we could -- there are
32 investigators in the audience who have proposals in who
33 are affiliated with these projects that have been
34 proposed.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions or
37 comments on the Kuskokwim before we go to the Yukon.

38

39 Mr. Charles.

40

41 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 Even some other programs like State-run weirs should be
43 helped like that because we learn from those weirs to
44 where the fish are going and it helps for next year
45 what the run is going to be like. I'm always concerned
46 about the future runs on salmon runs.

47

48 So if they are funded, I'd be glad.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, James. Any
4 other comments.

5

6 Mr. Oney.

7

8 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 Pippa, I just want to know information on the spawning
10 grounds on the Kuskokwim River after reports since I've
11 sat here on the conditions of the spawning grounds on
12 the Kuskokwim River. Also another question is who the
13 Technical Review Committee are and if we have anybody
14 that may be from our area.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Pippa.

19

20 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
21 question, Mr. Oney. Mr. Chair. First I'm going to
22 address the Technical Review Committee. I do not have
23 a list in front of me, but there are three people on
24 the Technical Review Committee who work for Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game. Two are expert fishery
26 biologist and one is an expert anthropologist, talking
27 about the social trends and use of fish in the area.
28 There's also a person, an anthropologist, from the
29 Bureau of Indian Affairs, an expert in her area.

30

31 So that's Pat Petrivelli. The Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game is Jim Fall and two others.
33 There's representatives from the Forest Service and the
34 National Park Service and the BLM. I think it's Dan
35 Sharp, who is an expert fish biologist from the BLM.
36 From memory, that's the information I can give you
37 right now.

38

39 I do have the terms of the TRC and I
40 will -- I have the Technical Review Committee terms of
41 reference that talks about how they're selected, what
42 they are and what they do and I'll make that available
43 to all of you.

44

45 Then the second part of your question
46 which has to do with Kuskokwim spawning ground
47 projects. I do want to direct you to Page 45 of your
48 books and there's a list of all the projects that have
49 been funded for the Kuskokwim Region through the

50

1 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

2

3 From memory, I can tell you I do not
4 believe there has been a habitat assessment, which I
5 think is what you're referring to, the spawning area.
6 I do not believe that has been done through the
7 monitoring program. I think there's been limited work
8 done by agencies that are not through the monitoring
9 program.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pippa.

12

13 Any further questions on the Kuskokwim.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
18 we'll go -- Alissa, you have something to say on the
19 fisheries.

20

21 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Alissa Rogers. I just wanted to quickly ask Pippa, and
23 for you guys's information, which projects are going to
24 be cut?

25

26 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Alissa, for the
27 question and Mr. Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM.
28 So if we look at the Kusko list of the proposals that
29 we've received, which is again on Page 34, I believe
30 for the Kuskokwim area there's likely to be available
31 funding for two or three projects.

32

33 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
34 if you're going to go two or three projects, by rule of
35 your score, it's just going to be these first top
36 three.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Well, that's one of the
39 reasons why we're collecting comments now. This is how
40 the TRC scored them, but we're going to be taking
41 comments from agency representatives and from the
42 Council to find out if there's something about these
43 projects that the Technical Review Committee missed or
44 feelings that people have about the projects or
45 understandings why they might want them to be priority
46 funded.

47

48 MS. ROGERS: Okay. So to follow
49 through with Mr. Charlie Brown's questions he had

50

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1 earlier about the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
2 Working Group, since it falls under number six that
3 would be one of the projects that would be cut since
4 it's ranked number six, Mr. Brown.

5
6 I think what Pippa is trying to find
7 out from you guys is what is your main priority for the
8 Kuskokwim projects and they need comments back on it
9 from you guys.

10
11 MS. KENNER: Well, I think what's been
12 helpful too -- this is Pippa again, Mr. Chair -- is
13 comparing these projects against the priority
14 information needs, which I believe is what people have
15 been doing. And you developed those priority
16 information needs.

17
18 Another piece of information that might
19 be helpful is that if you read through the
20 justifications, it would talk about what portion of
21 these projects we've been asked to fund. Many of these
22 projects we're not funding the entire project. We just
23 provide some support in funding.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: One more time for
26 Kuskokwim questions.

27
28 Mr. Brown, comments.

29
30 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

31
32 INTERPRETER: This working group that
33 are monitoring some of them asked when I joined them --
34 all they answer is when the project is done they will
35 be able to compile all the numbers and provide all the
36 information that you are requesting only when the
37 project is done. All the estimate numbers will appear
38 at the end.

39
40 That's my comment.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: At this time we will
49 go to the Yukon Monitoring Program.

50

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
2 Yukon projects are on Page 61.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The projects listed
5 for the Yukon by the Technical Review Committee are as
6 follows, the scoring: Project 18-251 is Traditional
7 knowledge of anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats with a
8 focus on the Draanjik Basin.

9
10 Number two scored by TRC is 18-250
11 Documentation of salmon spawning and rearing in the
12 upper Tanana River drainage.

13
14 Number three 18-252, Subsistence salmon
15 networks in Yukon River communities.

16
17 Number four 18-202, Gisasa River
18 Chinook and summer Chum Salmon abundance and run timing
19 assessment, Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska.

20
21 Tied for fifth place is 18-203,
22 Application of mixed-stock analysis for Yukon River
23 Chum Salmon.

24
25 Tied at number five also is 18-205,
26 Yukon River Coho Salmon radio telemetry.

27
28 Tied also at number five is 18-201,
29 East Fork Andreafsky River Chinook and summer Chum
30 Salmon abundance and run timing, Yukon Delta National
31 Wildlife Refuge, Alaska.

32
33 Six on the TRC score is 18-204, Yukon
34 River Coho Salmon mixed-stock analysis.

35
36 And number seven 18-200, Identification
37 and protection of habitat for Chena River Chinook
38 Salmon.

39
40 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 This is Pippa Kenner again. As Ken Stahlnecker did, we
42 do have people in the audience who are very familiar
43 with these projects. Some of them are a continuation
44 and they are available for you to ask questions of. One
45 is Fred Bue, who is the Fish and Wildlife Service
46 manager of the Yukon River fisheries.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I had one question. I
49 don't see any subsistence post season for the Yukon on
50

1 subsistence harvest.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
4 question, Mr. Chair. The Alaska Department of Fish and
5 Game has not requested funding for the post-season
6 survey that occurs on the Yukon. To my knowledge,
7 they've never asked us to contribute to it. They pay
8 for the entire thing.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So they've taken care
11 of that by themselves?

12

13 MS. KENNER: They have. We don't
14 encourage long-term -- people to apply to us for money
15 for long-term projects.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. Any
18 other comments or questions on the Yukon for Pippa.

19

20 Mr. Ulak.

21

22 MR. ULAK: On 18-252 what's salmon
23 networks? What does that mean?

24

25 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
26 question. There is a better description than I can
27 give you right now in the abstracts for that project,
28 but in a nutshell, what this project aims to do is
29 explore the sharing and trade networks, particularly
30 for fish on the Yukon River.

31

32 As you're all aware, one of the major
33 reasons why people harvest is to share or trade or
34 barter fish. It's an important part of the subsistence
35 economy in rural Alaska, particularly on the Yukon, and
36 it's to explore where salmon go after they're
37 harvested.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

40

41 Mr. Peters.

42

43 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chair. I got a
44 question about the Yukon in my area where I live. You
45 know, on this traditional and subsistence needs I think
46 it's very important. I know they got all these
47 projects going, but I was kind of concerned about what
48 about our area in the lower part of the river because I
49 think it's very important that I know for a fact we

50

1 don't want to be cut off with our subsistence needs and
2 stuff like that.

3
4 Somewhere along the line when they
5 allocate money on these projects they should ask the
6 people where the people live because it's going to
7 affect us. Coming from the lower part on the upper end
8 of the Yukon, I think it's very important that you get
9 these projects and I was kind of hearing that you don't
10 have no funding for this project.

11
12 I think it's very important that it be
13 put on the table for discussion coming from my area
14 because I could see it's river-wide and kind of
15 focusing along the Yukon, but I don't have no say for
16 up on the other end of the Yukon because where I live
17 at, you know, we would like to have some input of how
18 the timing of the fish run and stuff like that because
19 it really affects us in our area.

20
21 I feel it's very important that
22 somewhere along the line it needs to be put on the
23 table where the local tribal councils or whoever have
24 input on this and also the elders and subsistence
25 people because it's very important for us and for the
26 discussion.

27
28 I just want to bring that to your
29 attention because looking at the percentage-wide, what
30 about our percentage on the lower part of the river.
31 It's very important that we have a voice to have some
32 money allocated or set aside for our area and I was
33 kind of concerned about that very much.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MS. KENNER: I think that was a
38 question. Shall I comment?

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

41
42 MS. KENNER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
43 Peters. Again, I want to direct you when you have time
44 to look at the table on Page 70. What it is is a
45 history of projects funded in the Yukon area of the
46 Monitoring Program and the 2016 projects that are
47 funded are ongoing right now and were funded for two,
48 three or four years. Some of those 2014 projects may
49 also -- yes, some of them are happening right now.

50

1 So while we're going through a cycle of
2 the FRMP we are at the same time funding projects that
3 are ongoing. So to see the full picture one would need
4 to look at this table and see the recently funded
5 projects.

6
7 What I heard you tell us in a comment
8 is that the lower river is important and shouldn't be
9 ignored. The other thing I heard you say is that there
10 should be some consultation directly with tribes or
11 village representatives. So there's a couple things I
12 can address there.

13
14 One is one of the criteria for funding
15 is partnership and capacity building. At a minimum we
16 require the investigators that are responsible for
17 these proposals to contact communities, stay in contact
18 and provide information to them about the weir, the
19 project, whatever it is. That goes right up to a rural
20 organization actually taking over the project directly.

21
22 So the list you see here, one of the
23 scoring criteria was how well that partnership was
24 developed with rural people or organizations. It's a
25 very important part of our program and thank you for
26 bringing it up.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done?

29
30 MR. PETERS: Thank you very much for
31 the information because like coming from my area I
32 would like to see the ongoing projects and what we have
33 now and to work with the people there.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I had one question,
38 Pippa. On number three 18-252, Subsistence salmon
39 networks in Yukon River communities. What exactly does
40 that entail?

41
42 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. I cannot
43 provide as good a summary as the overview of this
44 project in the next few pages. However, I can tell you
45 that when they're talking about salmon networks,
46 they're talking about where salmon go after they're
47 caught. Between the sharing and the barter and the
48 customary trade salmon oftentimes move from household
49 to household and from community to community.

50

1 This is a very important aspect. This
2 sharing aspect is very important to the subsistence
3 economy. It's a defining characteristic almost of the
4 subsistence economy. So these investigators want to
5 look at that and describe it and understand it better.
6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't remember
8 having any input from this Council on any of these
9 projects.
10

11 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
12 am going to direct you to the priority -- oh, I'm going
13 to back up a minute. Is what you're referring to --
14 does your question mean that these researchers have not
15 been here in front of this Council talking to you about
16 them?
17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't remember
19 discussing. It could have been when I was not
20 attending a meeting because I've missed a couple of the
21 meetings in the past. I don't actually remember any
22 discussion on any of these subjects.
23

24 MS. KENNER: Okay. So I think maybe
25 I'll direct you to the priority information needs on
26 Page 59. These priority information needs may not look
27 familiar. Not all of them will be familiar to this
28 Council because on the Kuskokwim there's three
29 Councils. There's the Eastern Interior, the Western
30 Interior and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Councils.
31

32 So these are the priority information
33 needs that we developed with the Councils either in
34 subcommittees or at your Regional Advisory Council
35 meetings. So there was input from this Council on
36 those priority information needs.
37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. I
39 just don't remember them. It might have been when I
40 wasn't in attendance.
41

42 MS. KENNER: Well, that's an important
43 piece of information for me to have.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further comments
48 or discussion on Yukon projects.
49
50

1 Mr. Ulak.

2
3 MR. ULAK: We fish in the lower Yukon
4 area. Black River has been a part of Y1. For many
5 years it has been a good fishing area and we've never
6 had a test fishing done, no subsistence monitoring done
7 at Black River. So I don't know if anyone has brought
8 that up yet, but there is a lot of people, a lot of
9 commercial fishermen do fish their subsistence. I'd
10 like to see test fishing done by Fish and Game and to
11 monitor subsistence users.

12
13 That's my point.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's in the Black
16 River during the summer.

17
18 MR. ULAK: Yeah.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

21
22 MS. KENNER: So, Mr. Chair, thank you.
23 That will be important information during the next
24 couple Advisory Council meetings that you have when we
25 develop the priority information needs for the next
26 funding cycle.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.

29
30 Mr. Oney.

31
32 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Pippa, on the first one what do they mean by anadromous
34 fish?

35
36 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
37 question. Mr. Chair. Anadromous means fish that live
38 in both fresh and salt water. That's a simple
39 explanation, but that's basically what it is.

40
41 MR. ONEY: Okay. Thank you. Another
42 follow-up question, maybe two of them. On these number
43 2, Documentation of salmon spawning and rearing in the
44 upper Tanana River drainage, is Toklat drainage a part
45 of this river?

46
47 The reason why I'm asking is that I
48 used to sit on the Yukon River Drainage as a board
49 member back in the early 1990s. At the time they were
50

1 trying to rebuild the stock in the Toklat River because
2 of overharvesting and I don't know, it seemed like that
3 project hasn't rebounded after they build a little bit
4 of money in that to try to rebuild that stock there.

5
6 And I was wondering about if there's
7 any other areas that may be of concern in trying to
8 rebuild those stocks mainly on the Yukon side.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. ESTENSEN: Mr. Chair. This is Jeff
13 Estensen with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I
14 can answer that first part. The Toklat is not a
15 tributary -- it is a tributary of the Tanana River, but
16 it is not an upper river tributary. So it's very
17 likely that this proposal 250 would not include any
18 work on the Toklat River.

19
20 MS. KENNER: Thank you. This is Pippa
21 Kenner again with OSM. Mr. Chair, Fred Bue has joined
22 us here at the table and I think he can further answer
23 some of Mr. Oney's questions.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for
26 volunteering your time, Mr. Bue.

27
28 MR. BUE: Thank you. Good morning,
29 Council. I think Jeff Estensen, the fall season area
30 manager for Fish and Game answered that well. Yes, the
31 Toklat is part of the Tanana River. It's primarily a
32 fall chum spawning area noted for that. It has some
33 coho spawning. But this study is looking at the upper
34 -- what we consider upper is more like above Nenana,
35 above Fairbanks and looking at a lot of those areas
36 that very few people look towards and people are
37 focused more on harvest and not so much on the spawning
38 grounds, so we don't know much about the spawning
39 areas.

40
41 Fishermen fish because they want the
42 fish. They don't go up and look to see what's going on
43 on the spawning grounds, so I think that's the reason
44 for this investigation.

45
46 Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Go ahead.

49
50

1 MR. ONEY: Another follow-up question
2 on the other project. In my opinion, I think number
3 three should be the last one on the list because the
4 survey has been done, the household survey has been
5 done. They know what the salmon, once it's done, but
6 to be able to -- how would I say it, monitor it, up
7 until it's eaten. It don't sound right.

8
9 It seems like that should be on the
10 last on this list in my opinion.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Peters.

15
16 MR. PETERS: I've got a question like
17 on the harvest, what the numbers and stuff like that.
18 It's very important we know how much fish go by the
19 sonars and stuff like that. I know it's informational.
20 But on some of these projects it would be very good
21 that whoever is on the department to let us know if
22 there's any additional money for like where I live at,
23 if we have a question or if there's anything that's
24 going to affect us with these projects, if we could be
25 placed on the table so that the people or the concern
26 could be brought and that they could address on some of
27 these projects affecting us.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. I think it was
32 a comment mostly. Just so everybody understands that
33 my office at Fish and Wildlife Service we have a couple
34 projects in here, so I am really careful not to
35 advocate for my own project. It's not fair. It would
36 be a conflict of interest, so that's why as a manager I
37 have to be really careful what I say which projects are
38 most important to me because I'm also competing for
39 this money. I hope you can appreciate that. I don't
40 want to step beyond where we are.

41
42 What I can tell you is the Federal
43 budget keeps on getting tighter. The State budget is
44 getting very tight. So we used to have a lot of
45 projects. They've been cut down. Marshall test fish
46 used to be a very important project. We used that a
47 lot in the past, but we can't fund everything anymore.

48
49 In fact, three of these projects, the
50

1 Gisasa River Weir was ranked four, the mixed stock
2 analysis for summer chum, that's been ongoing for a
3 long time. Andreafsky Weir has been going for a long
4 time. Those are probably down on the list and haven't
5 ranked as high. The couple weirs have been going over
6 20 years. The chum has been going for better than 15
7 years.

8
9 So what we've been doing is whittling
10 down projects and we've gotten down to the core
11 projects, so every project we pull out of the stack
12 hurts. I mean it's going to affect everybody and
13 people are going to feel those. So we're trying to
14 balance new information, research collection,
15 information that can help us in the future with better
16 management and we're balancing it with what we need to
17 manage the fish today.

18
19 The Yukon River is a very large river
20 and one project may be several hundred miles away from
21 you, but that actually may affect a decision that
22 impacts you. You know, Eagle Sonar, the other end of
23 the river, 1,200 miles from Alakanuk, if that project
24 isn't counting enough fish, then it turns around and it
25 affects the lower river fishermen and vice versa. If
26 something isn't happening in the lower river, it's
27 going to affect a decision and it carries all the way
28 up the river.

29
30 So all these projects are really
31 important to everybody. It's not just what's close to
32 you, but they all have an effect on each one of you.
33 So it's important and I'm not advocating for these
34 projects, but I think as a manager where I have to
35 apologize to the Councils because we've kind of fallen
36 short, this is becoming really important. Projects are
37 falling off the table, we're running out of money.

38
39 I did bring a map to illustrate some of
40 the projects. These are just projects that are funded
41 through the OSM. There's other projects that the State
42 funds that other funding sources are there, but they're
43 getting far and fewer between and everybody is
44 competing for that money.

45
46 What I offered to the Western Interior
47 RAC a couple days ago is that maybe in the winter
48 meeting, spring meeting, whatever it is, maybe I could
49 help report to the Council and describe strategically
50

Page 208

1 what managers need to help manage the fishery and help
2 you understand and then you can give us feedback on how
3 that might help us in a dialogue. So maybe that's one
4 way. It doesn't help us right now very well, but in
5 the future I think it's something that we can do.

6
7 I apologize, we need to do a better job
8 communicating with you. We have a lot of decisions
9 that we have to make and they have to be made today.
10 We can't wait until the next tide. The fish are here
11 and it's based on the information we have in our hand.
12 So sometimes that's just how it is, so there is some
13 information that's important. If you're willing, I
14 think we can find an agenda item for the next meeting
15 if that's the Council's wish.

16
17 Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Bue.
20 Any other comments on the projects for the Yukon.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. We have one
25 more region, the multi-region, when we're done with the
26 Yukon.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. If there are no
29 other comments, then we will take a 10-minute break
30 for Mr. Aloysius to take a break.

31
32 (Off record)

33
34 (On record)

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back
37 to order. Are we done with the Monitoring Program?

38
39 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. We are now moving to
41 the multi-region for the Monitoring Program. There are
42 only two project proposals we received.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Before we get
45 into the Monitoring Program, we have one request.

46
47 Mary Peltola.

48
49 MS. PELTOLA: I can go up later. Thank
50

1 you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay. I didn't
4 know you changed your last name.

5

6 MS. PELTOLA: Now you know.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now we know.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mary. Now that
13 I know who you are. Okay. We're going into that multi
14 -- what was that?

15

16 MS. KENNER: The multi-region region.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The multi-region.

19

20 Go ahead, Pippa.

21

22 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 This is Pippa Kenner. Before I start, real quickly I
24 want to correct a previous statement I made. I stated
25 that the Technical Review Committee terms of reference
26 could be handed out and I've been informed it's
27 actually not something we hand out, but something that
28 is information to the Technical Review Committee only.
29 They just wanted me to make that correct.

30

31 Moving on, the multi-region project
32 proposals we received are on Page 87. A multi-region
33 proposal is a proposal that requests to do work in more
34 than one region. These proposals include the Togiak
35 River Harvest Assessment of Dolly Varden, which
36 includes the Togiak Lakes areas, which I believe do
37 exist in at least the western -- actually the Yukon --
38 okay, I'm going to back up.

39

40 This proposal, number one, the Togiak
41 River Harvest Assessment of Dolly Varden, the research
42 will happen in the Kuskokwim drainage also up at the
43 level of the Togiak Lakes. The second proposal occurs
44 in the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, Copper River and
45 Southeast areas of the state and that's why they're in
46 the multi-region.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comments on the
49 multi-region projects.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On the multi-region
4 the project is Togiak River Harvest Assessment of Dolly
5 Varden, number one. And 18-750 is the Kuskokwim,
6 Southcentral and Southeast Wild Food Sharing Events.
7 Any questions or comments on those two.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Pardon me, Mr. Chair.
10 This is Pippa again. It's a multi-region proposal, the
11 Dolly Varden number one, because part of this research
12 is in the Kanektok River.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay. You got
15 that information. Any other comment on these two.

16

17 Mr. Aloysius.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Why do they call natural
20 food wild food?

21

22 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
23 question. Mr. Chair. Wild food is to make the
24 distinction between wild and store-bought food.

25

26 MR. ALOYSIUS: There is no such thing
27 as wild or wilderness in the Native languages of Alaska
28 and it always offends me and other people that they
29 call our food wild. They talk about wild moose, wild
30 caribou, wild beaver, wild berries. There's no such
31 thing as wild. They're natural, N-A-T-U-R-A-L, period.
32 They have to start thinking about that. Just because
33 they're not domesticated doesn't mean they're wild.
34 They're out in nature. So make sure you get that
35 through the minds of the people who are making these
36 proposals.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MS. KENNER: Yeah, and just a quick
41 response, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

44

45 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I really appreciate
46 that comment. I think one of the reasons why people
47 will sometimes use wild, wild caught, is because
48 they're trying to get away from using the word
49 subsistence, which also we get criticism for.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I guess there are no
6 comments on this.

7

8 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much, Mr.
9 Chair and the Council. I appreciate the time that you
10 took to look over these projects and I look forward to
11 working with you in the future. Bye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pippa.

14

15 We then will continue on with our
16 agenda. We are down to item C.

17

18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Before
19 you get into that do you want the Council to act on
20 these FRMP for the three different areas? Do you want
21 us to act on it?

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, do you need any
24 action on these, Pippa, Council action?

25

26 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. No, it's not necessary
28 for you to act on it. We take all the comments.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
31 Then we will continue on with our agenda. Identify
32 issues for fiscal year 2017 annual report.

33

34 Ms. Coordinator.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
37 Council. So on Page 94 in your meeting books you will
38 find the guidelines for the development of the
39 Council's annual report. Again, this is the Council's
40 report to the Federal Subsistence Board. ANILCA
41 actually establishes the annual reports as a way to
42 bring subsistence uses and needs from the region, from
43 the Councils to the Secretary's attention. This is
44 delegated to the Federal Subsistence Board.

45

46 So each year the Council develops an
47 annual report to provide the Councils interests,
48 concerns and your observations or questions or requests
49 of the Board to take action on particular issues or to

50

1 get information that the Council would like for
2 consideration.

3
4 The main issues that the Council is
5 guided to bring up for the Board is identification of
6 current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and
7 wildlife within the region. Your evaluation of the
8 current subsistence needs for fish and wildlife in the
9 region and issues that may be of concern in the future
10 and recommendations.

11
12 So if you have an idea of what could be
13 done to address an issue or a concern, to bring those
14 recommendations to the Board and to the Federal
15 Subsistence Program. And if there's any concerns about
16 current policies or processes that are conducted with
17 subsistence management or the Regional Advisory Council
18 process itself.

19
20 So it's an opportunity to really bring
21 any issues of concern, offer suggestions for how to
22 address these issues that you'd like to see changed and
23 to bring that to the Board's attention so that they can
24 help respond to these issues or direct another agency
25 to address the issues.

26
27 I'd like to address the previous year's
28 report, so on Page 96 is the Council's report to the
29 Federal Subsistence Board and this was from last year.
30 You'll see in the italicized wording is the Council's
31 report to the Board and the issues of concern you
32 brought to the Board and then you'll see under the
33 response in bold heading is the Board's response to the
34 Council.

35
36 So we want to make sure the Council has
37 had an opportunity to review that, see if there's any
38 remaining questions that you have for the Board and
39 then we'd like to begin to develop any issues that
40 you'd like to address to the Board for a new annual
41 report for this year.

42
43 I keep track through the meeting the
44 discussions that are of concern to the Council, but if
45 you think of anything at this point, please bring that
46 to my attention so that we can add it to begin
47 developing a report for this year for the Council.

48
49 Just a quick review from last year's
50

1 report. The Council had brought up the issue of
2 dipnets, feeling that that wasn't an opportunity for
3 many communities for whom it was difficult to use
4 dipnets to harvest salmon. The Board had responded to
5 that. In some cases there were actually some offers of
6 advice.

7
8 Like over KYUK for people that had
9 figured out strategies for using dipnets. So again
10 it's an opportunity that's available. It's one of the
11 tools in the management box that's available for people
12 in communities to use. Some have figured out a
13 strategy for making that work for them.

14
15 The timing of subsistence fishing
16 opportunities in weather conducive to safely dry fish.
17 Those concerns were brought up by Mr. Waska earlier.
18 Council Member Dale Smith addressed that concern again
19 today. This has come up repeatedly from public
20 testimony over the years and the Council was wanting to
21 make sure that the board and management program was
22 aware of the challenges to safely preserving fish later
23 in the season.

24
25 Again the Board had responded to that
26 concern and finding ways to both manage fish in-season
27 for conservation issues and meet subsistence needs.

28
29 The timing of the fall subsistence
30 moose hunt was also discussed at length by the Council.
31 As you'll recall, when the Federal subsistence wildlife
32 proposals were being developed in the wintertime the
33 Council had quite a bit of discussion around the timing
34 of the moose hunt, discussions with different
35 communities about what better timing, if it would be
36 helpful to push the fall moose hunt back, the start
37 date later due to warmer conditions in the fall.

38
39 Ultimately at that time the Council
40 decided not to submit a proposal because they felt you
41 wanted more feedback from local communities. So just a
42 key thing here is that the Refuge Manage has a certain
43 amount of authority for making changes to harvest and
44 season limits, but in terms of pushing back a start
45 date that would require a regulation to do that. So if
46 communities or the Council wanted to have a later start
47 date for moose, that would require submitting either a
48 regulatory proposal or a special action request. So
49 that would be the way to address that.

50

1 Then opportunity to harvest spring
2 sheefish in advance of the chinook salmon closure was
3 of real interest to the Council and the communities to
4 get that fresh fish early in the season and particular
5 for the upriver communities. That is actually
6 primarily addressed when it's under State fisheries
7 management in early season. That would be one way to
8 work on that is through the Board of Fish proposal
9 process.

10
11 Council also had concerns about tribal
12 consultation and reporting to the Regional Advisory
13 Council. So prior to any regulatory process the
14 Federal Subsistence Board conducts tribal consultation.
15 That can be in person and via teleconference. So those
16 are the reports back to the Council in terms of what
17 tribes in your region had made recommendations or
18 comments on either the fisheries or wildlife regulatory
19 proposals. So report that back to the Council. Then
20 there's also an opportunity for tribes to consult
21 directly with the Board at the Federal Subsistence
22 Board meeting as well.

23
24 So if you have any questions, there's
25 things that are not answered in that reply from the
26 Board, please let us know and think about topics that
27 you would like to address to the Board for this year.
28 Questions, recommendations, information that the
29 Council would like, concerns you would like to raise to
30 the Board's attention.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Ms. Patton.

33
34 Are there any issues that the Council
35 might identify at this time for the fiscal 2017 annual
36 report.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll just go down the
41 line. Do you have any issues that you might want to
42 report, Mr. Peters, on the annual report?

43
44 MR. PETERS: Not at the time. Thank
45 you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Oney.

48
49 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 What comes into mind is the report that ONC gave
2 yesterday in regards to the Willow Ptarmigan. I think
3 that should be a priority to address this. I think we
4 do need to see what's going on with the Willow
5 Ptarmigan because of the declines in the population and
6 also the worms in the intestines. I think that should
7 be one of the priorities.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

12
13 Mr. Ulak, do you have any issues that
14 you would like to identify in the annual report?

15
16 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. I have none,
17 but I want to commend Eva Patton for doing good work
18 with Pippa and the other staff for doing report clarity
19 and the format they use.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Ulak.

22
23 Ms. Johnson, do you have any issues
24 that you'd like to identify in the 2017 annual report?

25
26 MS. JOHNSON: No, I don't. Not at the
27 moment. Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Brown, do you have
30 any issues you'd like to identify?

31
32 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 INTERPRETER: Just the issue about the
35 drying salmon in the springtime. From my village back
36 at Eek the late opening of the subsistence for the
37 salmon run has been an issue in my area because when
38 they open it too late and when there's a lot of
39 humidity in the air, the salmon gathers sour white
40 spots to the drying stuff and that is not a very good
41 thing for us.

42
43 So it has always been in the start of
44 June that we start drying our fish and after that we
45 got all the work done and the only issue that we have
46 always had is that opening the salmon run way too late
47 when the humidity in the air increases.

48
49 Also I wanted to add that the dipnet
50

1 fishing is not viable in our area. We don't support
2 the dipnetting in our area.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

7
8 Ms. Cleveland, do you have any issues
9 you'd like to identify in the annual report to the
10 Subsistence Board?

11
12 MS. CLEVELAND: Yeah, I was going to
13 mention that I was hearing like in July there were lots
14 of boats from this area that come to Quinhagak and
15 subsistence for fish there and after that I heard that
16 the fish they got from Quinhagak got bad because of the
17 weather. Like Charlie, I'd like to see earlier
18 subsistence fishing time.

19
20 (Teleconference interruption
21 participant phones not muted)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you get that, Eva?
24 Are you done?

25
26 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Ms.
29 Cleveland.

30
31 Mr. Aloysius, do you have any concerns?

32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I have lots,
34 but I'm going to narrow it down.

35
36 You know, the thing that really gets
37 me, our main concern is subsistence and we have to
38 remember that all the time. Our main concern should be
39 subsistence, not commercial or anything else. Our
40 ability to harvest what's there for us at the time that
41 it's given to us is the best time that our old people
42 practiced a long time ago.

43
44 I don't know what they call it, but the
45 ability for the Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife
46 Service to say, hey, you can't fish until this certain
47 time. After the drying season is over, many times it's
48 open and it is a hardship and a waste of time and
49 resources when you have to try to catch salmon during a
50

1 non-drying season. I see that and I hear that every
2 day from upriver. When the heck are those people going
3 to learn that we have a drying season before it gets
4 wet.

5
6 They don't understand subsistence.
7 When I say they, I'm talking about the administration
8 and the authorities that regulate our hunting and
9 fishing, trapping, gathering. I get really upset
10 because I didn't grow up that way. I grew up at a time
11 when the first salmon hit, that's when the salmon opens
12 until freeze-up.

13
14 Especially the ability to catch
15 sheefish right after breakup. That's something that we
16 have done for hundreds and thousands of years, if we
17 live that long. I don't know, but as far back as I can
18 remember and stories I have heard about the first fish
19 that hit the river. It's always sheefish because
20 they're there under the ice and they're there after the
21 ice goes out.

22
23 So this four-inch gear is worthless.
24 Four-inch gear is worthless. It's just going after the
25 whitefish and smaller fish, which are not there after
26 breakup. We have to be able to fish for sheefish with
27 that 6-inch. I use a 6-inch all the time. Some people
28 use 8-inch after 1960, but those big four and five
29 footers. We don't need that any more, but a 6-inch is
30 fine. And the timing is perfect. It's right after
31 breakup when we need the fresh fish and the ability to
32 dry that fish.

33
34 You have to remember that we are a
35 cyclic people. We know when to hunt, we know when to
36 fish and we know when to gather. It's always for
37 feeding our families, ourselves. Contrary to what many
38 people think, we don't just gather fish or dry fish and
39 harvest it for the winter time, it's 365 days a year.
40 We harvest fish for 365 days a year.

41
42 The last one I have again is beaver
43 dams. My favorite subject. They are a detriment to
44 the salmon going up river and a detriment to any of the
45 native fish we have. Whitefish, pike, sheefish, lush,
46 blackfish. Beaver dams plug the streams that they
47 travel on and we need to have some way to eradicate
48 that so fish can go up and down whenever they want.

49
50

1 We have six salmon that go up the
2 Kuskokwim River. We don't go to them. They come to us
3 and that's something that we have to really think
4 about. Why are we so fortunate that they come to us.
5 We don't have to go after them. We step out to the
6 Kuskokwim River and harvest them. We should be able to
7 do that whenever and wherever they are available,
8 especially during the drying season.

9
10 The beaver are leaving their dams
11 behind. I've seen beaver dams up the headwaters of the
12 creeks that are as long as I remember. They've been
13 there for 70 or more years. I know that. That's all
14 I'm going to say because I get too damn emotional. I
15 get upset whenever the time for the annual report comes
16 in and it's glossed over. It's not in hard fact.

17
18 We need to have more power in our words
19 to mean something to those people in the white towers,
20 Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, Washington DC. They
21 don't live out here. Let's face the fact. They don't
22 live out here and they make the regulations for us to
23 follow. That's stupid.

24
25 Amen.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
28 Aloysius. Those concerns about the drying area, that
29 is real. That is felt in every village along the Yukon
30 River and the Kuskokwim River where people that are
31 drying or having the need to dry fish for their
32 subsistence during the winter.

33
34 At this time, Mr. Andrew, do you have
35 any issues that you'd like to identify? Mr. Andrew.

36
37 I'm sorry, Mr. Charles. You were so
38 invisible I couldn't see you.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Dipnet fishing, we have not used dipnet fishing for a
44 long time. Dipnet fishing is for us to catch fish in
45 the fall time. We fence the river and fish at fall
46 camps, not on the main river. Main river is for salmon
47 fishing. But when I was a kid not everybody went to
48 fish camps because we live by the river. Everybody
49 used to do that even. Even Bethel was down on the

50

1 riverbank. Tuntutuliak was on the riverbank.

2
3 Everybody was like that before the
4 population grew up. They moved back, back all the
5 time, so everybody is different than when we were kids,
6 years ago. At that time women, men were making weaving
7 nets in wintertime so they can use the net in
8 summertime. They would weave about 10 to 15 feet long
9 net and I don't know how many meshes deep, but they
10 were not very deep, not 45. But that's the way we were
11 years ago and we catch some salmon in those nets we
12 weaved.

13
14 We'd buy the twine from the stores in
15 Bethel or because there was no stores in the villages,
16 most of the villages did not have stores, so we
17 survived off the land. We were like animals. We would
18 be eating fish, blackfish and ptarmigan and rabbit in
19 wintertime. Like my mom raised me and a couple of
20 others. Our father, uncle, grandmother died within one
21 year. Mom raised me to survive, so that's what she was
22 doing.

23
24 She was like a man, but I never forget
25 what she said to me. That's why I got award for
26 saving salmon down by the mouth because my mom told me
27 when I was a kid think of other people who need the
28 resource, not for you only. Think of other people
29 that's around you, upriver or down by you. So I never
30 forget that one. So I've been living -- I'm 77 now,
31 but I'm not very old compared to Bob here.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. CHARLES: Anyway, I survived eating
36 fish years ago.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, James.

41
42 Mr. Andrew, do you have any comments?

43
44 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 I have two.

46
47 For issues for fiscal year 2017, the
48 biggest one is during the time of chinook conservation
49 in the month of May and June. We were facing very
50

1 severe hardship all along the river, mostly in the
2 villages where people don't have jobs. We couldn't go
3 out and fish for our families.

4
5 Our neighbors were -- especially for
6 those of us sitting on the working group, we'd been
7 harassed about openings. But I always try to tell
8 them, no, the biologists are the ones that are calling
9 the shots. We are just in an advisory position.

10
11 What I'm trying to say is during the
12 time May and June many of the families went without
13 salmon or other species of fish because of course we
14 were accustomed to harvesting during that time and
15 processing them. We were denied that right to go out
16 and harvest them.

17
18 The other one I had was this summer
19 four or five families have come to me and said their
20 smokehouses were raided by bears and mostly brown
21 bears. What every little fish they got the bears got
22 to them. The other one was the weather. They didn't
23 dry too well because we were allowed pretty late.

24
25 Those are the two main ones I can think
26 about because the other issues I wanted to bring up all
27 the other people brought them up and I thank them for
28 that.

29
30 Quyana.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Andrew.

33
34 Mr. Bill, do you have any concerns for
35 the Board?

36
37 MR. BILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 (In Yup'ik)

40
41 INTERPRETER: My name is David Bill,
42 Sr. I grew up at a time in one of the biggest -- the
43 western coast of Alaska between Yukon and Kuskokwim,
44 Hooper Bay. It's Hooper Bay where I was growing up.
45 Nobody ever said that there were lesions or any pus or
46 worms in the salmon at all, period. There was no
47 reports at all of any sores or anything like that.
48 They never did say that the marine mammals had any
49 sores or pus or lesions and nobody ever gave a report

50

1 when I was growing up that the bearded seal the blubber
2 had blood or pus in them.

3
4 We never heard reports of those. We
5 had never ever heard of those things at all before. So
6 at this time now we have a lot of reports saying that
7 there's a lot of lesions and they are not fit for human
8 consumption. We are also hearing of marine mammals
9 with blood in their fat.

10
11 I really want to know where does this
12 come from. Every time I ask where this comes from they
13 always say it's probably because of climate change.
14 There's probably another factor out there in the Bering
15 Sea and if you do a research on why the lesions are
16 popping up, you'll probably find the reasons why.

17
18 So right now we are at that time
19 everybody keeps saying that there's climate change and
20 they keep saying it's probably because of climate
21 change, but I really want somebody to research this
22 issue. Every time I ask about this nobody ever gives
23 me anything. Every time I ask for a research they say
24 we don't have any funds for research.

25
26 So we as people we rely on food. If
27 something is broken, we try to gather our resources and
28 try to fix it. So the marine mammals especially. If
29 you really want to take a look at the issue, we can
30 figure out something. We can. Not just sit here idle
31 because we don't have any money and use climate change
32 as a crutch because we did not know any of these issues
33 at all when I was a young man, but not we see all these
34 issues.

35
36 Some of the fish are coming in really
37 red with lesions and why are they getting all these
38 lesions and whatnot. When I was a young man back in
39 the day, the homemade gillnets that we made we probably
40 had 10 mesh deep and probably about five feet long and
41 that's what was made. People didn't keep these for
42 themselves. When the person who made this gillnet,
43 after he used his net and he got his quota, then he
44 would give that gillnet to somebody else to use and so
45 on and so forth.

46
47 So one person would share their
48 implements to get all these fish and sometimes they did
49 gillnets or dipnets with homemade stuff. Every time
50

1 they got their quota they would stop fishing, but right
2 now there are a lot of illness and lesions out in the
3 Bering Sea and there's a lot of issues there.

4
5 Also especially I'm thinking that the
6 deep sea trawlers are the ones that are really doing
7 havoc to that. When we go out seal hunting in the
8 springtime, we see a lot of halibut that are dead
9 floating on top and those things that we've never seen
10 before. We've never seen halibut upside-down floating
11 on top of the surface before. There's a lot of bearded
12 seal that do not -- where have all the bearded seal
13 gone. They used to have their haulout areas, but they
14 don't have haulout areas anymore. What have happened
15 to them.

16
17 When we were young, way back in the
18 day, we used to figure out what was going on with them
19 and right now our way of life is the food that we get,
20 the subsistence food is really important for us and if
21 we could really get a handle on what is happening out
22 here and to the Bering Sea, then we would probably
23 figure out what is wrong with it, what is causing it
24 and that way we can address that issue and quit using
25 climate change as a crutch. Quit saying that you have
26 no funds to go out there and figure out what's going on
27 in the Bering Sea.

28
29 Way back in the day the elders used to
30 say that when we have no more resources we will face
31 starvation and maybe that is true because it is really
32 affecting our food now. Are we at the precipice of
33 being starved. We look at all these signs here and
34 these signs are telltale signs that perhaps it is true
35 what they say, with all these issues and if we get to
36 that point, then we will have a rude awakening.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Bill.

41
42 That concludes our discussion on the
43 identification of issues that we needed to bring to the
44 attention of the Subsistence Board.

45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

49
50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: You did not say
2 anything. Your turn.
3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think I had enough
5 to say with what I said earlier in support of your
6 comment on fish drying in our area. So that was my
7 concern. Okay. We are continuing on with our agenda.
8 We're going down to a Revised Delegation of Authority
9 letter for Kuskokwim in-season manager, OSM fisheries.
10 After that we'll break for lunch.
11

12 MR. HARRIS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
13 Members of the RAC. My name is Frank Harris and I'm a
14 fisheries biologist with the Office of Subsistence
15 Management. Although I'm relatively new to OSM in the
16 office there, I've been working for approximately 15
17 years on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers conducting
18 fisheries projects. So I am somewhat familiar with the
19 area.
20

21 I'm here to talk to you today about the
22 proposed changes to the fisheries Delegation of
23 Authority letter issued to the Federal in-season
24 manager for Federal public waters of the Kuskokwim
25 River drainage. These changes are associated with the
26 January 2017 Federal Subsistence Board discussion of
27 Fisheries Proposal 17-05, which was submitted by Lamont
28 Albertson.
29

30 First I will describe what the Letter
31 of Delegation does. The Delegation of Authority letter
32 allows the Board to delegate to the Y-K Delta Refuge
33 Manager the authority to set harvest and possession
34 limits, define harvest areas, specify methods or means
35 of harvest, specify permit requirements, and open or
36 close specific fish or wildlife harvest seasons within
37 frameworks established by the Board.
38

39 For a little background on Fisheries
40 Proposal 17-05, it requested that for the Kuskokwim
41 area the Federal subsistence management plans,
42 strategies, fishing schedules, openings, closing and
43 fishing methods be issued independently by the Federal
44 Subsistence Program in consultation with appropriate
45 agencies and entities.
46

47 The overall intent was for the Federal
48 Subsistence Management Program, including the Y-K Delta
49 Refuge Manager, to work with the Alaska Department of
50

1 Fish and Game, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
2 Working Group and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish
3 Commission to determine a strategy for Kuskokwim area
4 fisheries.

5
6 The Federal Subsistence Board
7 determined that some of the requests of FP17-05 could
8 be accomplished by modifications to the Delegation of
9 Authority letter. This letter was first issued in 2002
10 and it has not seen any updates or revisions since
11 then, so it was also up for review due to not being
12 looked at for 15, 16 years.

13
14 The draft letter was primarily derived
15 from the OSM conclusion and the justification provided
16 from the analysis of this fisheries proposals. These
17 sections are highlighted in the draft Delegation of
18 Authority letter addressed to the Yukon Delta National
19 Wildlife Refuge Manager, which can be found on Page 104
20 of your meeting book.

21
22 Language has been added to the opening
23 section and sections 5(h), 6 and 7. At this time we
24 are only asking for input on these highlighted changed
25 as they are under purview of the Federal Subsistence
26 Board. Changes to any other area would require
27 regulatory changes.

28
29 I will now quickly, briefly review each
30 section of the updated language in the letter and will
31 be seeking your comments and recommendations on these
32 revisions. The Federal Subsistence Board will consider
33 the recommendations of the Council in approving the
34 final Delegation of Authority letter.

35
36 First I'll go through some of the
37 changes in the text, which occur in the opening
38 section, section 5(h) and section 6.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Again the draft letter is
41 on Page 104 of your meeting books and you'll see the
42 areas that are up for consideration are highlighted in
43 light yellow, so those are the key points that the
44 Council will be addressing. It starts on Page 104.

45
46 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. New language
47 was inserted like I said in the opening section,
48 section 5(h) and section 6 to include the Kuskokwim
49 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Kuskokwim
50

1 River Salmon Management Working Group with other
2 entities that the in-season manager should be
3 coordinating with, notified while considering and prior
4 to implementing an emergency special action. So this
5 language was inserted in three different areas. It's
6 essentially very similar in each area.

7
8 On top of that we are searching for
9 input and comments on areas in 6 and 7 and I'll go
10 through those paragraphs real briefly. We're looking
11 for recommendations, anything you'd like to see or hear
12 more about. We also don't have a date yet for times or
13 recommendations for a date when these meetings may be
14 happening.

15
16 So in section 7, by -- and we don't
17 have a date yet, insert date of each year, you will
18 convene a meeting of representatives from the Yukon
19 Delta National Wildlife Refuge, the Kuskokwim River
20 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and other Federally
21 sanctioned entities to determine, in consultation with
22 the OSM and ADF&G, if conditions warrant Federal
23 management of subsistence fisheries on the Kuskokwim
24 River.

25
26 So that would happen pre-season. So if
27 they were to suggest a meeting date, the Council
28 suggests that, then it would have to be prior to
29 fishing season. That meeting should happen prior to
30 fishing season.

31
32 Then the other paragraph is in section
33 7 on Page 107 and it's pretty similar. It's basically
34 discussing a post season meeting. We're also looking
35 for comments, input and a suggested date for when it
36 should be done. Typically, in all the other letters,
37 it's been November 15th.

38
39 Section 7, Reporting: If pre-season
40 meetings result in the need for Federal management of
41 the fishery, the in-season manager will submit a
42 written report to the Board by -- and we don't have a
43 date yet -- of each year documenting the outcome of
44 this determination process, as well as outlining the
45 in-season collaborative decision-making process adopted
46 by the group to include input from the Kuskokwim River
47 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Kuskokwim River
48 Salmon Management Working Group, OSM, and ADF&G,
49 proposed strategies for in-season management, and

50

1 agreed upon guidelines for issuing emergency special
2 actions via delegated authority.

3
4 Right now that is pretty much all I had
5 to update on that and document any comments you guys
6 might have, any suggestions.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions
11 concerning the revised Delegation of Authority letter.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comments,
16 questions.

17
18 Mr. Charles.

19
20 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Can we invite Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal person or
22 the chairman or the vice chair to work with us over
23 here at the RAC meeting?

24
25 MR. HARRIS: You mean right now? I
26 think so.

27
28 MS. PATTON: So we have the Refuge
29 Manager Ken Stahlnecker is here. As the Refuge
30 Manager, this Delegation of Authority letter is what
31 gives him the authority to act. So he's here for
32 dialogue with the Council if you have questions. We
33 have Mary Peltola here with Kuskokwim River -- oh,
34 maybe she stepped out. If the Council had questions
35 about how that interaction would take place, we have
36 folks you're welcome to talk to about it as well.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions or
39 comments from the Council.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There don't seem to be
44 any questions or comments concerning this. This is
45 already written into the agreement as revised and this
46 is the newly revised letter?

47
48 MR. HARRIS: This is the newly revised
49 draft, correct.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's still a draft.

2

3 MR. HARRIS: It's still a draft.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And what action do you
6 need on it?

7

8 MR. HARRIS: We're just looking for
9 comments, input.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Comments or
12 input.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
15 Just to clarify this is a draft letter that will go to
16 the Federal Subsistence Board and ultimately the
17 Federal Subsistence Board will approve this. The
18 Delegation of Authority comes from the Board to the in-
19 season manager, so the Board is looking for what the
20 Council thinks of these changes to the Delegation of
21 Authority letter. If you think this would work well or
22 if you have any comments on it when this is up for
23 their review.

24

25 There's Mary if you had a question for
26 Mary on this process.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We had to wait until
29 you went out on a break.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles.

34

35 MR. CHARLES: Mary is good here, but I
36 was thinking of the Chairman or Vice Chair to work with
37 our group over here as RAC members because they are
38 involved with fishery manager for the area or for
39 Kuskokwim.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What did we want Mary
42 for? Sorry.

43

44 MS. PELTOLA: I didn't hear the first
45 question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was there a question
48 for Mary?

49

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mary, why don't you
2 introduce yourself.

3
4 MS. PELTOLA: Okay. My name is Mary
5 Peltola. I'm the interim executive director for the
6 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. A lot of
7 you know what the fish commission has been doing on the
8 Kuskokwim side anyway. It's 33 member communities,
9 tribes, from the whole Kuskokwim River, from the mouth
10 to the headwaters, and there are seven units and each
11 unit has a member that's part of the executive
12 committee and then there's also the in-season co-
13 managers.

14
15 The in-season co-managers are from
16 three sections of the river; the upper river, the
17 middle river and the lowest river. So our three in-
18 season managers are from the upper river, Nick
19 Kameroff, Jr. from Aniak. From the middle section it's
20 James Charles and from the lower river -- or James
21 Nicori from the middle and then James Charles from the
22 lower river.

23
24 The chairmanship revolves, so it's not
25 one section of the river that keeps the chairmanship.
26 The chairmanship changes every two years. So our
27 chairman the first two years was Mike Williams. This
28 summer was the third season that they've been
29 co-managing, so this summer there was a change and it's
30 Nick Kameroff for '17 and '18 and then in 2019 and '20
31 the chairman will be from the lower part of the river.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: How can you call Aniak
36 the upper.

37
38 MS. PELTOLA: It's middle by the way we
39 see it now.

40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's central from Lower
42 Kaltag to Stony River is the central. There's nobody
43 from Stony River up to Nikolai. I tried to present
44 that during the formation of the Inter-Tribal Fish
45 Commission but nobody listens. Those people are left
46 out. I don't care what anybody says. Nick Kameroff
47 represents the middle and nobody represents the upper
48 part of the river.

49
50

1 He doesn't know anything about the
2 upper end of the river, period.

3
4 MS. PELTOLA: Mr. Chairman. So my time
5 at the Fish Commission began in April of this year, so
6 you have an advantage of understanding the history of
7 how everything -- the steering committee and the early
8 process.

9
10 What I will say is that like for our
11 convention all of the commissioners are invited and
12 expected to participate and the three in-season
13 managers they all come to Bethel on Tuesdays to review
14 the data that Fish and Game has collected with Fish and
15 Wildlife and Fish and Game.

16
17 What I will say from my point of view
18 it is not like what I have seen in terms of advisory
19 groups. There are exercises that are gone through,
20 what is referred to as a structured decision-making
21 model where the in-season managers review how many
22 people they think will go fishing, how many boats they
23 think will go out, how many fish per boat they think
24 will be caught. They talk about the importance of in-
25 season -- you know, the drying weather and things like
26 that.

27
28 But what I'll tell you about when we
29 have all the commissioners meeting at once like in
30 Bethel, the people from the headwaters, because of
31 travel and logistics, they have to go through Anchorage
32 and come here and it takes them a day to get here and a
33 day to go back and that might have been part of the
34 consideration for allowing someone from as far down the
35 river as Aniak as just travel and logistics.

36
37 I'm not sure why.

38
39 I can't answer that now.

40
41 Maybe that's something we can discuss
42 further. It's open-ended and it's not an answer, but
43 that's my comment back.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
46 I may too, I think I caught James's question in terms
47 of how this Council could be represented in these
48 discussions in the in-season management and the
49 interaction between this Council and the in-season

50

1 management.

2
3 As you noted, the addition to the
4 communications and work in in-season management and as
5 Mary was referring the process that they're developing
6 for that collaborative decision-making process. So
7 currently what's being added to the Delegation of
8 Authority letter is the Kuskokwim River Inter-tribal
9 Fish Commission and the Kuskokwim River Salmon
10 Management Working Group. Those are the two groups
11 that are in place at this time that are participating
12 in that in-season management decision-making process.

13
14 Yesterday we heard an update from Carol
15 Damberg on the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project and
16 that's where the Council was brought into the
17 discussion in terms of forming a subcommittee which is
18 still in progress. So right now there isn't a formal
19 process for this Council to be able to participate in
20 the in-season management process. So the Partnership
21 Project was still working on what that rule may be, but
22 that structure doesn't exist yet.

23
24 So that's why James was asking how does
25 this Council be able to interact in-season. That's a
26 work in progress through the Partnership Project. So
27 right now it's the Kuskokwim River Inter-tribal Fish
28 Commission and the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
29 Working Group that are part of this dialogue in the in-
30 season management. So hopefully we'll learn more at
31 the winter meeting as Carol Damberg said.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any more
34 discussion on the Delegation of Authority letter for
35 the Kuskokwim in-season manager.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you need any type
40 of action?

41
42 MR. HARRIS: No action. We were just
43 looking for comments.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. There
46 being none. No other ones.

47
48 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I need to have
2 Susanna. Are you going to be needing to get up here?
3 We're going to have to suspend our rules to bring
4 Susanna up because she's going to be leaving to go to
5 -- where was that?

6
7 MS. HENRY: Mr. Chair. Atlanta,
8 Georgia and then I don't know where.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, to the flood
11 victims over there to help them out. So I think that's
12 an important thing. Thank you, Mary.

13
14 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you.

15
16 MS. HENRY: Mr. Chair and Members of
17 the Council. Susanna Henry, Refuge Manager at Togiak
18 National Wildlife Refuge. Thank you for letting me
19 give my agency report a little early. I did just get a
20 resource order to help out with a FEMA project,
21 hurricane relief for victims of one of the hurricanes.
22 I don't know which one yet, but I'm supposed to be in
23 Atlanta by tomorrow night. So thank you.

24
25 You'll find the Togiak Refuge report is
26 in your information book starting on Page 152 and goes
27 to Page 156. You'll be able to look at that at your
28 leisure. I wanted to mention a few highlights.
29 Starting tomorrow we're going to be participating in an
30 interagency effort to helicopter flights over the
31 Mulchatna Caribou Herd to do a caribou composition
32 survey.

33
34 Beginning on Monday, that's October
35 16th, for about the next five days, there will be a
36 moose survey in Unit 17 and 18 with our biologists and
37 biologists from the State of Alaska and from Bureau of
38 Land Management. I want to highlight that those
39 surveys are taking place with no snow cover at all, of
40 course. It's just brown ground, but they're having a
41 very high observation rate on those moose even without
42 the snow.

43
44 Biologists are sharper-eyed than they
45 thought and they're detecting about 88 percent of the
46 moose and they know that from the ones that are already
47 radio-collared and the observers are not aware of where
48 those radio-collared moose are, but other people are,
49 so they know whether they missed them or not. So

50

1 that's taking place.

2
3 We have a new Federal wildlife officer
4 that we have hired through a national hiring process,
5 Derek Thompson, and he's in training right now over at
6 the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in his field
7 training program and we're hoping to have him fully
8 trained and on our staff and living in Dillingham by
9 the first of the year. That will increase our ability
10 to patrol and spend more time out on the Refuge and
11 interacting with folks and providing more information.

12
13 I also wanted to mention that on
14 November 2nd we're hoping to have a training in
15 Dillingham for those that are doing waterfowl harvest
16 surveys. Extra funding was provided through Migratory
17 Birds last year and it was to increase the number of
18 subsistence waterfowl surveys in our villages. This
19 year we're going to go about that same funding a little
20 different way and provide training to village members
21 who are interested and they would get their travel paid
22 to come to Dillingham and take part in the training and
23 then they'll get a stipend for helping with the
24 surveys. So we're looking forward to that.

25
26 All right.

27
28 Do you have any questions for me.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any
31 questions for Susanna.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That was a good
36 report. No questions.

37
38 MS. HENRY: Excellent. Thank you very
39 much. Thank you for your attention.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you very much.
42 At this time we will take a lunch break.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Could we address the
45 public member quickly before lunch so we don't keep him
46 waiting?

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, I suppose we
49 could take Mr. Evon Waska before lunch.

50

1 MR. WASKA: What I am about to say is
2 directed towards Fish and Game.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

5
6 MR. WASKA: This is directed for Fish
7 and Game. I'm referring to the Donlin Gold Mine. I
8 don't know what is the permitting process now, but I
9 feel that opening of the mine will have an adverse
10 effect on my people that totally rely on subsistence
11 due to barge activity. Worse, they're going to keep
12 that tailings pond up there at the mine. They're going
13 to put in a big rubber boat and they're going to leave
14 it there, that cyanide.

15
16 From the headwaters to the Kuskokwim
17 Bay, if that mine tailings pond breaks, I feel -- I
18 don't know if that's potent enough to kill everything
19 here on the Kuskokwim. I went through that half-inch
20 pamphlet and there's not one word on the Donlin Gold
21 Mine.

22
23 If conservation is the whole key
24 subject right now, why is there nothing on the Donlin
25 Gold Mine. You know and I know if that tailings pond
26 breaks, that going to kill everything here
27 on the Kuskokwim. If my people from the 56 villages
28 could make it here, I feel they would have it on their
29 mind too. If they could make it, we would have to have
30 the meeting held outside because there's no place big
31 enough for my people.

32
33 But I thank you for being here for your
34 people and that was on my mind anyway. I went through
35 that pamphlet and at the ending by Sally Jewell, Fish
36 and Game is supposed to be helping us people. There's
37 no word on hardship, giving us hardship. It's not
38 stated on the last document on the pamphlet. So I
39 believe they're not doing their job. They're just
40 giving us hardship on our subsistence.

41
42 We don't tell them when to slaughter
43 their beef and chicken and harvest their crops. Why
44 are they governing us? This ain't Russia. There was
45 already sound management we had from the elders.
46 Growing up we would just take what we need. What
47 they're doing now is only hardship and that's not
48 stated on Sally Jewell's statement on the pamphlet.

49
50

1 Quyana.

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
4 questions.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
7 can provide a little bit of reply to your question
8 about review of subsistence issues and concerns for the
9 Donlin Mine. So that mine is currently undergoing an
10 environmental impact statement and review process both
11 because of Federal subsistence management and concerns
12 in the region and also because of the Federal lands of
13 the National Wildlife Refuge in the region of the mine
14 project.

15
16 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is part
17 of the review team for that environmental impact
18 statement, so it reviews the potential impacts to
19 subsistence uses and that review has been ongoing.
20 There are representatives from the Office of
21 Subsistence Management that are a part of that review
22 process as well as staff from the Refuge and also many
23 other divisions within Fish and Wildlife Service that
24 are addressing migratory birds, water quality,
25 fisheries, contaminants.

26
27 So it's a serious issue and was being
28 looked into as the potential impacts. Again, that
29 process is ongoing. The next steps of the public
30 process that will come also before this Council too and
31 also opportunity for the public to provide more input
32 on that process. But it is an important issue, so it's
33 being looked into through that environmental impact
34 process. Subsistence concerns, the barge activity,
35 those are being evaluated as well.

36
37 So we'll certainly keep the public
38 involved. The agencies that handle the public process,
39 there will be a wide public notice, but it will also
40 come before this Council.

41
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chair. Before we
43 get our heads where we're not supposed to be, I would
44 suggest that you leave Donlin Gold to Donlin Gold. You
45 are not an employee of Donlin Gold. You don't know
46 what's going on, so just be quiet. Because it's very
47 detrimental to him what you're saying about what
48 they're saying or what they're doing. I would suggest
49 that you talk about us here and not Donlin Gold.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

4 It's not an opinion one way or the other from Fish and
5 Wildlife Service. It's just part of the Federal review
6 process under the environmental impact statement.
7 Review of impacts to subsistence is part of that public
8 process.

9

10 So that's all I'm saying.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Do you
13 have any questions? You're good.

14

15 MR. WASKA: No. Quyana.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We will
18 break at this time and be back at 1:30.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The time is now 1:30,
25 thank you. We are down to Item 12, agency reports. We
26 had tribal governments, Orutsararmiut Native Council
27 and Native Village of Napaimute already yesterday under
28 the ANSEP program. Is there any other reports or
29 anything else that the Orutsararmiut would like to
30 propose.

31

32 Tim, you got the floor.

33

34 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Timothy Andrew with the Orutsararmiut Traditional
36 Council -- or Orutsararmiut Native Council.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There you go.

39

40 MR. ANDREW: And thank you for the
41 opportunity to provide you information. And first of
42 all I'd like to thank you, all the Council members, for
43 the support on the proposals we submitted, the three
44 proposals we submitted. And like I had indicated that
45 our ONC subsistence committee primarily made up of
46 subsistence hunters, fishermen and gathers within the
47 community that are pretty active out in the field and
48 actively participating in those activities sit on our
49 subsistence committee. So they are our eyes and ears

50

1 to the ground. They very well -- they're very well
2 versed in knowing what's going on with the resources
3 and also the land.

4
5 Throughout the deliberations of
6 proposals I keep hearing a common phrase that keeps
7 coming up, this proposal conflicts or further divides
8 the State season from the Federal season. And one
9 thing I'd like to ask, and I don't need the answers
10 now, but if we do come up with these proposals and when
11 the State cycle is not coming up until 2020, why do we
12 submit these proposals, we submit these proposals
13 because we have concern over the resources that we
14 depend on. And if the State of Alaska, if we do have
15 an extreme conservation concern it might be taken up on
16 the ACR process or agenda change request process, but
17 in most cases the concerns that we have.....

18
19 (Teleconference interruption -
20 participant phones not muted)

21
22 MR. ANDREW:regarding our
23 resources, they don't meet that criteria but we are
24 attempting to make attempts to correct some of the
25 issues that we've seen with our resources to try and
26 preserve, conserve, protect for not only for us but
27 also for our future generations as well.

28
29 And I don't know what the possible
30 solution would be to bring our regulations closer to
31 the State regulations. I don't want the State to be the
32 guide either and in most cases they conflict with our
33 values and our interests as well, just because the
34 Constitutional and legal structure that the State
35 manages their resources. Perhaps aligning the wildlife
36 regulations or wildlife regulation proposal period
37 closer with the State or the State come closer to the
38 Federal proposal system, that way we could submit
39 proposals that would align closely with the State and,
40 you know, and make it a little bit more consistent and
41 less confusing for the people on the ground.

42
43 I'd like to talk a little bit about
44 Evon Waska, you know, he's been here a couple of times.
45 And he's a -- I wish he was here, but he is one of the
46 most prominent subsistence hunters and gathers in this
47 community. He's probably like the community (In
48 Yup'ik) of our tribe. You go to his house during
49 Russian Christmas for (In Yup'ik), the feed that him

50

1 and his wife and his family provides for the guests is
2 pretty wide and broad. He has seal, he has moose, he
3 has caribou, he has salmon, he has beaver, he has all
4 the resources from the land that he puts out on the
5 table to feed his guests. So, you know, his concern
6 about the several summers we've had under this
7 restrictive season that we had with the chinook salmon
8 is very, very real. It's really disheartening for
9 people that put up salmon just to see it go to waste.
10 I mean either the weather got it or the flies got them,
11 or, you know, it's just too late in the season. There
12 has got to be ways to allow for people to harvest the
13 more abundance species that are not a conservation
14 concern on the Kuskokwim River.

15
16 You know the men, and normally the men
17 in most cases, go out and subsistence fish -- I'm kind
18 of preaching to the choir, you all know what goes about
19 this, but I'm going to put this on record. But in most
20 cases, the men and the boys, they go out and get the
21 salmon, however many the ladies feel that they can
22 possibly cut during a given day and given evening and
23 how much the family needs throughout the entire season.
24 It's a lot of work going out there and putting out the
25 net, checking, pulling in the net, perhaps cutting the
26 fish if you do that. And then the ladies, they put in
27 a lot of work cutting it into strips, cutting it into
28 slabs, putting it to (In Yup'ik) and perhaps making (In
29 Yup'ik), and when you lose food for your family, food
30 to feed the children throughout the winter, feed
31 others, feed guests it's extremely, extremely
32 disheartening when you see that -- all that hard work
33 that's put into preserving salmon go to waste.

34
35 I mean last summer our -- part of our
36 smokehouse here, my wife and I, part of it burned, and
37 there's plastics involved, when I told her we had to
38 throw them away because of the dioxin that was produced
39 from burning plastics is not good for us or any of our
40 guests she cried. And in most cases, the ladies of the
41 house, when spoilage occurs, they do weep because
42 that's food for the family, food for guests.

43
44 And throughout the winter, hopefully,
45 we'll be able to come up with a process that allows
46 people to be able to harvest chums and reds on the
47 Kuskokwim River. It's my primary job right now, for
48 the Kuskokwim River, but perhaps make it a model that
49 can work elsewhere, perhaps on the Yukon River, if they
50

1 were in that situation.

2

3 I'd like to talk about moose harvest
4 opportunity on the Kuskokwim River or Lower Kuskokwim
5 Management Area. We would highly, highly encourage the
6 surveyors to get out there this year and make it work,
7 make it work, make it work, because a lot of the local
8 people are seeing a large increase in the moose
9 populations. They see cows and calves everywhere.
10 They encounter moose when they go to fish camp. We've
11 had several come through the community of Bethel.
12 We've seen them as we go out fishing and gathering
13 throughout the entire summer. All indications are that
14 the Lower Kuskokwim moose population is growing but the
15 seasons are not adapting to that population increase.
16 So, you know, if we can possibly come up with the money
17 and make it a priority to do this, not only every three
18 years, perhaps every two years on a survey schedule, it
19 would be more beneficial to the people that depend on
20 the resource.

21

22 And also -- okay, great, I see that
23 Alissa is here.

24

25 One of the things that are really
26 important for ONC and its tribal members is a clean
27 environment because a clean environment produces
28 healthy subsistence resources. And we try and avoid
29 introducing pollutants and what not into our food
30 resources so that we do not consume or our children
31 don't consume them. We have the environmental program.
32 We have an EPA employee that gets like -- does aluminum
33 recycling and also keeps an eye on what's happening
34 with discharges that occur within the community and the
35 surrounding area. And we also have another program,
36 which I would like Alissa Rogers to come up and explain
37 her program, it's a very important program and it's
38 part of the ONC natural resources program.

39

40 Alissa.

41

42 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Tim. Through
43 the Chair and to the group, my name is Alissa Nadine
44 Rogers, Orutsararmiut Native Council. I've been with
45 Orutsararmiut Council for 10 years and just recently --
46 this will be my third year with Browns Fields (ph) and
47 my second year with NALEM, the Department of Defense.

48

49 So first off I would like to start with

50

1 our Browns Field program, it is funded by EPA. It's
2 where we go around cleaning up contaminated grounds,
3 contaminated sites for within our subsistence areas,
4 subsistence grounds across this area and if you guys
5 know of any subsistence sites or any sites within your
6 communities, I advise you to go to your tribal
7 administrator and let them know so that they can get in
8 contact with the contamination person and have them
9 cleaned up because the toxins in your soil and toxins
10 inside get into your subsistence foods and your
11 subsistence are what we consume. So far we have over
12 100 active sites around Bethel and roughly 58 on top of
13 those 100 are currently in the process of being cleaned
14 up in that administrative section and we have about
15 another 30 that have been completed within the past two
16 years.

17
18 And going on to the Native American
19 Land Environmental Mitigation Program, which is a
20 Department of Defense. We also work with the Corps of
21 Engineers. Our sites are currently going through a
22 strategic proposed implementation plan. We currently
23 have two active military sites that are being cleaned
24 up, one is the BIA site and the other is the BIA
25 headquarters which is near Napaskiak Slough. These
26 sites, we've gone through this whole entire summer and
27 I've walked these sites and there's buried military
28 equipment, barrels, old chemical sites and a lot of
29 debris. And these sites -- if you guys know of any
30 military sites please let me know so I can get them
31 cleaned up as soon as possible, any military
32 contamination sites, please let me know so I can get
33 those addressed to our NALEM project manager who is
34 running out of Anchorage and she will address those to
35 your nearest NALEM. And also if your tribal councils
36 would like to begin your own cleanups for environmental
37 sections for your lands, any contaminated sites can be
38 cleaned up under the use of the subsistence land
39 agreement. So if we have any subsistence lands that
40 are contaminated, they can be cleaned up through these
41 programs.

42
43 And lastly I would like to talk about
44 the Alaska Derelict Vessel TaskForce. We're also
45 working through that with the Coast Guard. There is a
46 working group that is consistent of a whole bunch of
47 organizations and those that involved around having
48 abandoned vessels in Alaska. Currently we have
49 Steamboat Slough, which consists of 120 abandoned
50

1 vessels that have been recorded. A total of five
2 reported accidents within the past two years since a
3 vessel has sunk in Steamboat Slough. A reduction in
4 salmon that passes through there, including whitefish,
5 lushfish, pike, and the two chum salmon, silver salmon
6 and red salmon that mainly go through Steamboat Slough
7 have all declined.

8
9 We also wanted to address a letter of
10 support from this Advisory Council in regards to Senate
11 Bill 92, which addresses the derelict vessels in
12 allowing for more aggressive action to be taken against
13 those who leave their vessels and don't take care of
14 them afterwards, in other words they don't take out
15 their oil, the contamination, the leaking, the fluids,
16 all the engineering equipment there that has the oils,
17 we can take more action to having those cleaned up.
18 And also to let you know that we do have Coast Guard
19 that will be coming out every two years from now on to
20 take a look at the sites and make sure that all of them
21 are addressed.

22
23 If you guys have any derelict vessels
24 that you guys know about that needs cleaned up or at
25 least to be addressed, please let us know, we will get
26 those on the books as well.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 Thank you, Tim.

31
32 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Alissa. Alissa
33 does a wonderful job for our environmental program for
34 ONC. Furthermore, if I may continue, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

37
38 MR. ANDREW: One thing that we care
39 about deeply is this public process for the management
40 of our subsistence resources and if there's any way
41 possible that ONC can help to encourage the continued
42 funding for two meetings for this -- for the YK-Delta
43 RAC, for the support services that you get, if there's
44 any way that we can possibly help decrease or mitigate
45 the impacts of the Trump -- proposed Trump
46 Administration cuts please let us know, and also the
47 FRMP program as well. It's very important to a lot of
48 people that depend on the resources and the information
49 that they provide.

50

1 And the other thing I'd like to bring
2 up is the tribal public input into the annual report.
3 Just the structure of the agenda that you have, putting
4 the annual report contents prior to the organizational
5 reports, it seems like that should be dealt with later
6 or another mechanism to come up -- or another mechanism
7 to allow for our statements, comments, to be put into
8 your annual report or considered to be put into your
9 report.

10
11 The other thing is the impacts of the
12 current development or possible future development that
13 occurs in close proximity to our resources, and the
14 potential impacts it has on our very way of life, that
15 is one of our concerns for -- not only for our people
16 but for all of subsistence users and would like to
17 encourage people to actively participate in the DEIS
18 processes and whatever other hearings and agencies that
19 we can depend on to provide our input.

20
21 And lastly, but not the least
22 important, I would like to introduce Josie Roczicka,
23 the wife of Greg Roczicka, the late Greg Roczicka who
24 was my predecessor and also a valuable member of the
25 Regional Advisory Council.

26
27 Josie.

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 MR. ANDREW: This is Josie.

32
33 (Applause)

34
35 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 know I exceeded my time limit and appreciate this
37 opportunity and would be happy to answer any questions
38 you may have.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any
41 questions for -- go ahead, Mr. Brown.

42
43 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

44
45 INTERPRETER: I have a question
46 regarding -- there's a construction contract down at
47 Tuntutuliak River, down at the mouth of the Tuntutuliak
48 River they've been working on something down and we
49 used to hear about it on the local news on the radio

50

1 and they said that there was a barge that was sunk down
2 by Tuntutuliak. Do you guys know about that, of
3 sinking of the barge there, or did that -- and if it's
4 down there then it's a danger to the boating activity
5 that happens over there.

6
7 And also another issue is how many
8 years later I have also heard up river, near Kwethluk
9 River, that there's a barge that sunk over there and
10 that has not been dealt with yet, and is that still in
11 the water and I have a concern about those two barges.

12
13 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

14
15 INTERPRETER: I have no idea right now.
16 I only just started at ONC and so I'm not really sure
17 about that issue but Alissa does know about these two
18 and she can answer your question.

19
20 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Through the Chair. No, we haven't heard anything about
22 that one so if we get your information we can take care
23 of -- get that taken care of. We'll add it to our
24 agenda for the ADV taskforce.

25
26 MR. BROWN: Quyana.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Ulak, did you have
29 any questions.

30
31 MR. ULAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. With
32 Alissa's presentation on contaminated sites, there is a
33 Cape Romanzof long range radar site that's like 21
34 miles out of our village. Earlier this summer -- or
35 earlier this fall we took a ride out and I had my
36 binoculars with me, there's still contaminants in that
37 dome, radar dome, below -- along the hillside you will
38 still see barrels that were thrown off the cliff,
39 plenty of barrels that are still hanging around the
40 side of the mountain.

41
42 Back in 1980s we had a -- we worked
43 with the Air Force Department to clean up the site
44 which they did but that comprised of Chevak, Hooper Bay
45 and Scammon. It is still not cleaned yet. I mean they
46 did some but it's not to a point where you still can
47 see the contaminated sites below the dome.

48
49 Another issue I have here is on IGAT,
50

1 we have an IGAT department in our tribal council, we've
2 always pointed out that people that hunt out there,
3 especially these younger generation, they go out and
4 bring their snacks with them and leave their trash at
5 the hunting site. And we, as caretakers of the land,
6 you know, need to address these issues to our younger
7 generation. That's not how our creator made the land
8 to be as now. Maybe sometime I can address the Cape
9 Romanzof site cleanup. And if you wanted to -- Alissa
10 wanted to contact -- I think the best person to contact
11 is Brandon, he works at the Scammon Tribal Office.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Ulak.
16 Through the Chair. Two questions, that Cape Romanzof
17 radar site, is the dome still -- are the structures
18 still there?

19
20 MR. ULAK: Yes, they are. The
21 structures are still there. The old White Alice is
22 still there. It's manned by at least a few people
23 right now, it used to be an old Air Force site but the
24 military left back in the '70s, that's when they left,
25 and it's now manned by civilian.

26
27 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.

28
29 MR. ULAK: Yeah.

30
31 MS. ROGERS: Your tribal -- and that's
32 tribal lands, right?

33
34 MR. ULAK: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. ROGERS: And the second question
37 was, Brandon, what's the last name?

38
39 MR. ULAK: Augchak. He's the tribal
40 administrator.

41
42 MS. ROGERS: Quyana.

43
44 MR. ULAK: 5425. 558.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions or
47 comments for Orutsararmiut.

48
49 Mr. Aloysius.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Not a question but a
2 comment. It's very difficult for me to fathom what you
3 guys have. You have a lot of resources, right, in your
4 building over there, we're at home, you know, we have
5 to call here and call there and nobody's there and it's
6 just, ahhhhh, there's nothing unified. So, you know,
7 if you guys can spread out on the YK-Delta area, you
8 know, that'd be great.

9
10 That's all I have, thank you.

11
12 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Aloysius.
13 Through the Chair. We'd be more than happy to help
14 with other communities, you know, getting in contact
15 with the appropriate people that you need to get a hold
16 of, you know, just call our office, you know, either
17 myself or any of the Staff that we have to help protect
18 and keep our resources clean.

19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Quyana.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
23 comments or questions for Tim.

24
25 Mr. Charles.

26
27 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 If the people traveling on the tundra or wherever,
29 maybe on the river, too, tell the people, tell the
30 tribal people that would be good because we have been
31 telling the person that Charlie Brown was talking
32 about, not to travel on the river, and he lost tractor
33 down under water two years ago, or maybe three years
34 now. But if they tell the people in the village or
35 tribal people, that would help and pass the word to you
36 guys what happened there because at that time we did
37 not know. My brother told the guy not to travel on the
38 ice because the ice was too thin to travel, but he went
39 ahead and traveled and lost a machine under the water,
40 or under the ice that time.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. ANDREW: So noted.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments or
47 questions.

48
49 Mr. Peters.

50

1 MR. PETERS: My name is Mike Peters.
2 And in Marshall we got two tribal councils, Ohagamiut
3 and the Marshall Tribal Council. And I would like to
4 thank Tim and Alissa. And, now if we could get
5 informational stuff from them, you know, if they could
6 contact the office and I'm pretty sure they'd be
7 appreciative of this program.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any further
12 questions or comments.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, then thank you
17 very much, Tim, for your report.

18
19 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The next is we heard
22 from Native Village of Napaimute yesterday and the
23 ANSEP program so we will go on down to Native
24 organizations and the first organization is Association
25 of Village Council Presidents.

26
27 Ms. Hooper, do you have anything.

28
29 MS. HOOPER: Good afternoon, Chairman
30 Wilde. I apologize for not being able to be here all
31 day. It's -- I just got back from travel and I have to
32 leave again this weekend so I'm trying to do a lot of
33 things at the office.

34
35 Anyways, I would like to provide just a
36 brief update for the RAC on activities that we've been
37 working on at AVCP in the last several months. I,
38 first of all, would like to introduce Sara Mutter. She
39 is a new resource specialist we have in the Department.
40 She's just been on board just a little over a month now
41 and so we are now a two person department.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MS. HOOPER: And so hopefully we'll be
46 able to get a lot more done.

47
48 But, anyways, just a few quick updates.
49 AVCP has been involved with several efforts and
50

1 organizations as usual. One of those is working with
2 -- on the Yukon, trying to update the RPT and that
3 regional planning team report has been an ongoing
4 process for long before I came back to the Department
5 last fall.

6
7 We have also been in several
8 communications with the Coast Guard. There's a lot of
9 concern right now with increased shipping traffic going
10 north through the Bering Sea with, you know, the
11 effects of climate change and everything else people on
12 the coast, especially, are becoming much more concerned
13 with that increase in shipping and what that means and
14 all the potential hazards and accidents and oil spills
15 and what not, which could, you know, ultimately
16 detrimentally affect the waters leading to, you know,
17 affecting subsistence and people's access to the
18 resources out there.

19
20 We are currently working on trying to
21 develop training opportunities through the Coast Guard.
22 Right now we're looking specifically with one
23 community, Mekoryuk, trying to look at what kind of
24 response training that might be able to occur within
25 the region. We've also had discussions with the Bethel
26 Search and Rescue outfit with the Coast Guard looking
27 at, you know, potential maybe boat safety type
28 trainings.

29
30 Within AVCP, the regional Migratory
31 Bird Management Body, the Waterfowl Conservation
32 Committee, that is the body that works with the other
33 entities across the state along with the Fish and
34 Wildlife Service and Department of Fish and Game to
35 manage and help regulate the migratory bird subsistence
36 hunt. We've gotten the WCC back on track with regular
37 scheduled meetings in the springtime and fall. We had
38 one in March and then we just had one a couple of weeks
39 ago. The WCC is actually the AVCP executive board,
40 that follows that unit structure and so within some of
41 your communities, at least within your unit
42 representative on the E Board of AVCP we've got people
43 who are meeting at least twice a year to participate
44 and get updates on the status of migratory bird
45 populations and talk about statewide issues.

46
47 We also helped to facilitate a meeting
48 of the Lower Yukon tribes back in the late spring.
49 There's been requests on the Yukon directly from the
50

1 Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to find ways
2 to get participation from the Lower River tribes. And
3 we helped to facilitate a meeting of the tribes and the
4 outcome of that was that the tribes were not interested
5 at this point in participating with the Fish Commission
6 and we provided communication to TCC and the Fish
7 Commission directly on that. I am still, as I can,
8 participating, had a fairly low level with the Fish
9 Commission and their process so at least, you know,
10 AVCP trying to stay in the loop on where things are at
11 with that group.

12
13 We're also involved with, through
14 members of the Bering Sea Elders Group, the Chaninek
15 Qaluyat Nunivak work group which meets with industry
16 representatives of the yellowfin sole fishery. There's
17 a work group to kind of keep those relationships open
18 and somewhat positive.

19
20 A lot of people may not think or may
21 not be real familiar with forestry type projects within
22 AVCP, the natural resources development, also has a
23 responsibility for providing various types of forestry
24 related support. Down in the Lower Rivers and then in
25 the coast, we don't really have, you know, forests, but
26 there are programs that we've been working on, region-
27 wide, and then specifically in Pilot Station, working
28 on creating and extending fire breaks around the
29 community in the event that a wild fire does happen to
30 come in that area.

31
32 And then I briefly just mentioned the
33 concern with the shipping traffic out in the Bering
34 Sea. AVCP's been really involved in -- I don't know if
35 you recall, I'm sure it was mentioned at a previous
36 meeting, an Executive Order that President Obama had
37 put in place to protect certain sections of the Bering
38 Sea from off shore development. And then Trump came in
39 and he revoked that. He revoked several things but he
40 added the -- kind of nullifying, basically, that
41 Executive Order that -- it protected areas, but it also
42 provided a seat at the table for tribes in the process
43 of the on shore -- off shore development. AVCP's been
44 really involved in trying to get some protective
45 measures back and we're now talking with other agencies
46 and groups out there that are kind of new to our arena
47 and so a lot of time is being spent on making sure that
48 we can provide some level of support and protection for
49 the tribes until we can get those seats at the table

50

1 and more direct links between the Federal agencies and
2 the regions and the tribes.

3
4 So that's a quick and dirty of what
5 we've been up to. Fall time is very busy traveling,
6 everybody has their meetings and so we're going to be
7 really busy now through the holidays trying to make
8 sure we're kept up to speed so we can then turn and
9 inform the tribes and share that information.

10
11 Doi.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
14 questions for Ms. Hooper.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good report. Thank
19 you very much.

20
21 MS. HOOPER: Thank you.

22
23 REPORTER: Ray.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sorry, go ahead,
26 Mr. Oney.

27
28 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 Thank you for your report.

30
31 I'd like to see probably all the
32 coastal villages be involved with that response plan
33 that you're working with Mekoryuk. I know Mekoryuk
34 alone won't be able to, you know, provide all the
35 necessary equipment to respond to an emergency. So if
36 you can work with all the coastal villages I'd like to
37 see that happen.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MS. HOOPER: Quick follow up, through
42 the Chair. We actually had the -- I don't know if it's
43 a new position or if just this person is new in the
44 position, but the Coast Guard has a tribal liaison that
45 contacted us a couple of months ago. He's new to the
46 position but he's also new to the Coast Guard and so he
47 actually came out a couple of weeks ago and met with
48 AVCP and we included a couple of other entities, trying
49 to determine -- because the Coast Guard, from my

50

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1 experience, has never had really much of a presence
2 within our region at all, they were looking at ways to
3 include our region in their scope and, you know,
4 finding ways to provide different support and actual
5 trainings and things. So I'm hoping and assuming that
6 this will be the start of a long-term relationship with
7 them and, you know, once they realize how much there is
8 to do out here, how much need there is, that they'll
9 continue on down with other types.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Peters.

12

13 MR. PETERS: You know, I would like to
14 see if you could Ohagamiut Council and the tribal
15 council on this, you know, what you're working on
16 because it's very important that they be on the table
17 and I just wanted to bring that to your attention now.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments or
22 questions.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you very much.
27 Next on the agenda is the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal
28 Fish Commission.

29

30 MS. PELTOLA: Good afternoon. It's me
31 again.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MS. PELTOLA: I'm Mary Peltola. And I
36 explained earlier a little bit about the Kuskokwim
37 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. And I just want to
38 followup a little bit on some of the things we talked
39 about this morning.

40

41 I had a question after I explained a
42 little bit about that -- exercises that the Fish
43 Commissioners, the in-season managers would go through,
44 thinking about what the potential subsistence harvest
45 will be.

46

47 The Fish Commission exists because of
48 protections under ANILCA. And in ANILCA, as you all
49 know, it's a Federal law that says that in times of

50

1 shortage rural residents get a preference for
2 subsistence, and this law has really given us some good
3 tools to work with to be co-managers. And the way
4 First Alaskans and a lot of Native people see it is
5 there are three co-sovereigns in Alaska; Tribes, the
6 Federal government and the State. And we've really
7 seen that idea go a long ways forward with this Inter-
8 Tribal Fish Commission. And it's also provided a
9 really good way to include traditional knowledge and
10 local knowledge and elder's knowledge in fish
11 management. So under ANILCA, in times of shortage, the
12 Federal government manages for two things, conservation
13 of the species and also subsistence. And it's not
14 necessarily one before the other, it's both of those
15 things that are managed for.

16
17 So there was a lot of emphasis on
18 making sure that we're not harvesting so many that the
19 fish can't get up and multiply, but also there's
20 recognition that the month of June is the month where
21 people dry fish and preserve fish for the winter. So,
22 you know, one of the concerns that I had on the FRMP
23 process and the funding process, the way that it was
24 laid out, number 1, I'm not sure what is for sure being
25 funded and what is not being funded, and I see that
26 Kuskokwim River sonar, that project is tied for number
27 6 -- or no, tied for Number 5, and that Kuskokwim River
28 sonar, this was the first year that they've done that
29 and the in-season managers were able to benefit from
30 that sonar project because with the river being so low
31 and the water being so warm, we did see that all the
32 fish were staying at the mouth and not coming up or
33 when they came up they were running so deep that they
34 were hard to catch and they were hard, even for Bethel
35 test fish to catch. Bethel test fish was not seeing
36 very many kings. But then the sonar, they were seeing
37 -- they were able to -- through the sonar data that we
38 were able to review, the in-season managers were able
39 to see that the sonar project that Fish and Game was
40 running, it did look like there were -- the fish
41 numbers were better for chinook under that index. And,
42 you know, it was just the hardest summer I've ever seen
43 here because there were only 12 -- two, 12 hour chances
44 to fish, so for the whole month of June 24 hours that
45 people could fish. And the first one was on the 12th
46 of June and even subsistence people who are very good
47 fishermen were having a hard time catching fish, most
48 of the people around Bethel caught less than 10 for 12
49 hours of hard fishing. And then on June 24th the

50

1 numbers were better, and that was encouraging.

2

3 There's this other piece to it, though,
4 that I keep hearing. I heard it from Evon Waska and
5 I've heard it from a lot of other people; there is this
6 feeling that people were prohibited from fishing just
7 to make life hard, and I've never had that feeling.
8 The feeling I -- I mean the way -- sitting in these
9 meetings and talking with fish managers, they want
10 people to fish, nobody would want to restrict people
11 from fishing, nobody would want to impose hardships.
12 But some of the indexes are showing numbers lower than
13 they've ever seen before. And I think -- I really do
14 think that local fishermen even know that it's harder
15 and harder to catch fish. And like I was listening to
16 the discussion yesterday about ptarmigan and it was
17 really informative for me to hear the manager saying,
18 we don't think that it's the hunters or humans that
19 have created lower ptarmigan numbers, it's lack of
20 snowfall and predators being able to see them easier,
21 hawks and owls, and it's also lack of thermal
22 insulation. And I don't know -- I don't think anybody
23 knows why chinooks are so low in numbers. But I have
24 this feeling that it's something like that, I mean
25 there's some reason that may not have to do with
26 humans, why the numbers are very low.

27

28 But recognizing that the numbers are
29 low and that we do have an impact on them, you know,
30 it's nothing against humans it's just humans are trying
31 to help make sure that our chinook don't disappear.

32

33 So I think that -- and I'm not really
34 sure, maybe as RAC members you can help us come up with
35 solutions for explaining that this isn't something that
36 anyone wants to impose, we want -- everybody wants
37 fishing, everybody wants abundance and during the
38 drying weather. That only makes sense.

39

40 There's this thing I keep thinking
41 about and it's not -- this is not on this agenda item,
42 but I had a friend who was a dental hygienist and she
43 asked me, your teeth, are they like a beaver's tooth,
44 are they hollow in the back, or like shaped like this
45 and I said, yeah, aren't yours, and she said -- she
46 wasn't Native and she said, no, our teeth aren't like
47 this, they're like this. And I remember thinking, wow,
48 we're genetically engineered to eat dry meat, we are
49 dry fish eaters. The reason I exist is because my

50

1 ancestors ate dry fish and I have teeth to prove it.
2 And so this -- I mean this really says a lot to me
3 about how much we need dry fish and dry meat. But what
4 do we do when there's -- when there aren't enough fish.
5 I mean like one of the things this -- the Kuskokwim
6 River, the Yukon River, and -- and especially the
7 Kuskokwim River, it's the largest subsistence harvest
8 of chinook in the world and I just took it for granted
9 all these years growing up here. And so losing this
10 resource or not having access to the resource has just
11 been the hardest thing I think we've ever gone through.
12

13 But we -- so back to the Fish
14 Commission, we did have a convention on August 30th.
15 We had over 20 commissioners. Of the 33 there, I think
16 we had 25 or 26 commissioners. There were small
17 amendments that were made to the constitution and right
18 now we're waiting to get resolutions back from the
19 member tribes ratifying those -- that constitution and
20 sending in their authorizing resolutions. So that's
21 where we are right now.
22

23 All of our money comes through BIA.
24 It's -- and it goes through AVCP because the Fish
25 Commission is a State chartered 501(c)(3) so we don't
26 have the ability to accept money from BIA but AVCP
27 does. They don't charge us any overhead. They've been
28 a really good partner for us. We're working to make
29 sure that we're in compliance with all of the BIA
30 regulations on providing financial information and
31 things like that. But AVCP has been very good to work
32 with and I really appreciate that they're helping us
33 without charging us anything or, you know, taking a
34 percentage of that pass-through money. So I do want to
35 thank AVCP and their Staff for all the help that they
36 give us.
37

38 And I think -- Mr. Aloysius, I think I
39 have an answer to your question. Ken Stahlnecker
40 reminded me that Federal waters only go up to Aniak and
41 then it's State waters above that, so that might be --
42 you know -- and, again, you would know better than I
43 why that decision was reached and I'm not defending it,
44 I honestly don't know why we don't have the up river
45 person from above Aniak. But it might have to do with
46 the Federal waters piece.
47

48 The other thing I will say is that when
49 the restrictions were first starting a few years back,
50

1 the State waters and the Federal waters were not
2 necessarily always managed in synch, they weren't --
3 you know, sometimes there would be a decision about
4 fishing on the Federal waters and then the State waters
5 would be different, and in the last two years, at least
6 for sure this summer, whenever there was a decision
7 made for Federal waters, the State followed suit and
8 that really helped a lot with lack of -- you know, it
9 helped with everybody understanding it's a river-wide
10 decision so that was really good. And there is an
11 interest in working with the State as well, even
12 though, you know, under -- during times of shortage
13 when we're under a special action, even though it's
14 officially State management we still do work with the
15 State.

16
17 With that, Mr. Chairman, I'll be happy
18 to answer any questions.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary. Any
21 questions for Mary.

22
23 Mr. Aloysius.

24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Something
26 you said that, you know, people are suffering because
27 of the closures, it's only down here, from Tuluksak
28 down. If you look at it realistically. Because by the
29 time the salmon get up to Kalskag they're -- I mean all
30 the closures down here are gone. So, you know, we
31 don't -- we don't have the luxury of having closed
32 periods by the time the salmon get up there.

33
34 And you said that the Kuskokwim River
35 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has access to elders and
36 all that, I mean, where? I mean they're so secretive.
37 I asked one time if I could go to the meeting here when
38 I was here, no, you're not a Fish Commission member,
39 you can't go to the meeting. It doesn't make sense.
40 If the Fish Commission is open to all residents, they
41 should be able to go to any meeting at any time and
42 they're never notified in Kalskag, you know, I live
43 right in the bottom of the hill and there's people all
44 over that know I'm there and yet nobody calls me and
45 saying that the Fish Commission is having a meeting or
46 the Council is having a meeting about the Fish
47 Commission. It's very frustrating. And, you know, and
48 I'm starting to think, well, why are they so secretive,
49 if they're not -- if it's supposed to be open to all
50

1 the people.

2
3 And the other thing is the Fish
4 Commission has members all up and down the river,
5 there's no Federal or no State, it's all the Kuskokwim
6 River, and there's 30 tribes that are entitled to serve
7 on that Commission. So you can't tell me that just
8 because the Federal part is, you know, like I can't buy
9 that. You know there's got to be some positive
10 changes, especially leaving us old people out because,
11 you know, if you look at it realistically Mr. Chair, ,
12 you know, people my age are tri-centurions. We're not
13 300 years old, but many of us were born in the 20th
14 Century delivered by and raised by people in the 1800s,
15 many of them before 1850 and we're here in the 21st
16 Century so we have access to the -- I mean the 19th
17 Century knowledge because we lived in the 20th Century
18 and we live here in the 21st Century. So, you know,
19 you can't take that away from us because you know we
20 know a thing or two because we've seen a thing or two.
21 You know, like the old Farmer's Insurance, you know,
22 they always.....

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS:show something and
27 say; we know a thing or two because we've seen a thing
28 or two. Well, it's true about us. We know a thing or
29 two and it's always good. We are recognized for that
30 knowledge but nobody cares, you're too old and my
31 response is BS.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done?

34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: (Nods affirmatively)

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

38
39 MS. PELTOLA: We are talking about
40 having public meetings next summer. It -- you know
41 having a -- providing an opportunity for people to come
42 and share their wisdom and -- and give feedback so we
43 understand, yeah, I -- I hear you. I believe fish are
44 the biggest public resource we have and it's all funded
45 with public dollars, all the management of it, and our
46 meetings should be public meetings and we do need to
47 provide more opportunity to hear from the public. So
48 that's something we'll be working on. The Refuge is
49 going to work on that with the Fish Commission as well.

1 Or that's what we've been talking towards.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: One thing you can do is
4 to encourage the local councils, the tribal councils
5 especially to -- start recruiting elders to say
6 something at the Commission meetings because I know
7 there's knowledge out there because I've lived up and
8 down that river for over 70 years, actively, you know,
9 I'm only 82 and that means something to me and the
10 people my age, it means something to them, that they
11 are a resource that is untapped.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The one question I
14 had, Mary, was what's the rationale behind not having
15 the public come to the Fish Commission meetings?

16

17 MS. PELTOLA: So this is -- again, this
18 was the summer that they've been co-managing and that
19 was a decision that pre-dates me, I -- I do not know.
20 And that's not something the executive director can
21 change, that's really between the in-season managers
22 and the Refuge. And it's not to say that it will
23 always be like that, that's just the way that it
24 started in '15 and then it continued in '16 and '17.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
27 questions for Mary on the Fish Commission.

28

29 MS. PELTOLA: Oh, the other thing I
30 forgot to mention, there has been discussion about the
31 FACA, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and a desire
32 to also have the working group as a part of it, one of
33 the things that makes it a little bit different is the
34 Fish Commission meets on Tuesdays and then this summer
35 they met additionally on Fridays and then working group
36 meets on Wednesdays and then additionally they were
37 meeting on Friday. So there were some -- like there
38 were some Fridays where the Fish Commissioners would
39 meet in the morning and then at noon, or actually 10:00
40 a.m., or something the working group would meet right
41 after that, and that really isn't a process that people
42 want to go forward forever because it just makes for a
43 lot of meetings. There is a desire to have the two
44 processes come together but like I just said a minute
45 ago, the Fish Commissioners are enjoying -- are
46 benefiting from a different level of participation.
47 It's not just advisory, it's considering advice at the
48 highest level, like taking their words into the highest
49 level of consideration. And I do feel like that is

50

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1 what the Refuge is doing. And then in trying to figure
2 out how the State is involved, that's where it gets
3 confusing, because the State does not recognize tribes
4 and they do not recognize tribes as having -- as being
5 a co-sovereign.
6

7 So that's -- you know, we're trying to
8 make sure that as we go forward we don't -- the Fish
9 Commissioner in-season managers don't go backwards into
10 a lower level of advising.
11

12 If that makes sense.
13

14 So that's kind of where we are right
15 now, we're just -- we're still interested in all
16 working together, we're just trying to find a way to
17 make that work.
18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. At
20 this time let's take a 10 minute break.
21

22 (Off record)
23

24 (On record)
25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are down to special
27 actions. The first special action is Kuskokwim
28 Fisheries Special Actions, Temporary Special Action No.
29 FSA17-03 and FSA17-04.
30

31 Ms. Kenner you have the floor.
32

33 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Again, my name is Pippa Kenner and I work for OSM in
35 Anchorage.
36

37 Today I'm going to very quickly
38 describe what the Fisheries Special Action Requests 03,
39 04 and 05 were and what the Board, the Federal
40 Subsistence Board did with those requests and then Ken
41 Stahlnecker is here and he's going to take over and
42 discuss the Kuskokwim salmon season more.
43

44 Okay. So temporary Special Action
45 Request 17-03 was submitted by the Kuskokwim River
46 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and it requested for the
47 Federal Subsistence Board to approve a management
48 strategy that would close Federal public waters in the
49 Kuskokwim River drainage to the harvest of chinook
50

1 salmon, except by Federally-qualified subsistence users
2 if the forecasted run size was below a specific target
3 level.

4
5 Temporary Special Action Request 17-04
6 submitted by the Akiak Native Community requested that
7 the Board do three things. The first was, close
8 Federal public waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage
9 to the harvest of salmon except by Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users. Reduce the pool of eligible
11 harvesters based on the Alaska National Interest Lands
12 Conservation Act, or ANILCA, Section .804 subsistence
13 user prioritization. And, three, implement an
14 allocation strategy among eligible users.

15
16 I'm sorry that information was provided
17 for you on Page 109.

18
19 (Pause)

20
21 MS. KENNER: Now, I'm going to go to
22 Page 111 and describe to you what the Federal
23 Subsistence Board did, how they acted on those Special
24 Action Requests and so now I'm on Page 111.

25
26 On May 29th, 2017 the Federal
27 Subsistence Board approved Temporary Special Actions
28 17-04 and 17-03 with modification. So beginning on
29 June 12th, Federal public waters of the Kuskokwim River
30 drainage closed to the harvest of chinook salmon except
31 by Federally-qualified subsistence users identified in
32 the Section .804 subsistence user prioritization. The
33 Board determined there was a need to restrict the
34 harvest of chinook salmon for the conservation of
35 healthy populations and to protect the continuation of
36 subsistence uses as mandated under ANILCA. Those
37 eligible to harvest chinook salmon under Federal
38 regulations were residents of the Kuskokwim River
39 drainage and residents of the coastal communities of
40 Chefornak, Kongiganek, Kipnuk and Kwigillingok. The
41 manager of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge,
42 who is the Federal in-season manager beginning June
43 12th could provide harvest opportunity for chinook
44 salmon subsistence fisheries using openings, closings
45 and gear restrictions developed in consultation with
46 the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

47
48 So that was what the Board -- that's
49 how the Board acted on those Special Action Requests.

50

1 Now, we're going to move into July.

2

3 In July we received another Special
4 Action Request. This one was from Dave Cannon in Akiak
5 and his request begins on Page 112.

6

7 MR. ALOYSIUS: He lives in Aniak.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much, Bob,
10 I've been corrected. He lives in Aniak, not Akiak.
11 Dave Cannon, who submitted this Special Action Request
12 17-05. And he requested that the Board take three
13 actions.

14

15 One, rescind the in-season fisheries
16 management authority of the Yukon Delta National
17 Wildlife Refuge manager for the remainder of the 2012
18 [sic] fishing season. Two, close Refuge waters of the
19 Kuskokwim River mainstem and salmon bearing tributaries
20 to the harvest of chinook salmon as necessary to ensure
21 healthy populations and the viability of chinook salmon
22 populations in the river. And, three, close Refuge
23 waters to the harvest of coho salmon, except by
24 Federally-qualified subsistence users to ensure the
25 continuation of subsistence uses of coho salmon.

26

27 So now I'm going to move on to Page
28 115, which describes the Board's actions.

29

30 So the Board discussed and rejected
31 this Emergency Special Action Request 17-05. In
32 rejecting, the Board emphasized its continued support
33 for the collaborative Federal Subsistence in-season
34 management process that had been carried out on the
35 Kuskokwim River up to that point.

36

37 So those were the three Special Action
38 Requests that were received and acted on by the Board
39 that concerned salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River
40 this summer.

41

42 Thank you very much and that's the end
43 of my presentation. And now Ken Stahlnecker, the in-
44 season manager and manager of the Yukon Delta National
45 Wildlife Refuge is here to present and answer
46 questions.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pippa. Are
2 there any questions for Pippa.

3
4 Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. When you read
7 these -- anything you read you always jump from one or
8 two paragraphs and then you skip four or five of them,
9 and then you go to another paragraph, it gets very
10 confusing, you know. So -- and so on Page 111 you said
11 on May 29th, it says May 18 on the letter, May 19 and
12 -- well, it gets very confusing when you try to follow
13 and you're giving the wrong dates.

14
15 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, may I respond
16 just real quick.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute, are you
19 done Robert.

20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: (Nods affirmatively)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Pippa.

24
25 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
26 know, to read these -- to read all of these documents
27 would take a long time and so what I'm doing is picking
28 out the things that I have been asked to describe to
29 you and the dates that those things occurred, and I'm
30 leaving out all the rest. I'm directing you to certain
31 pages for you to review or maybe if you've made notes
32 on them from reviewing them previously or to read
33 later, and I know it's confusing but I just can't go
34 through and read the whole thing it would take too
35 long.

36
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any more
40 questions or comments.

41
42 Mr. Charles.

43
44 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 Are all the Special Action Requests copies sent to
46 tribal people in the villages?

47
48 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much for
49 that question. Through the Chair. Mr. Charles. No,

50

1 they're not sent. A response package including an
2 analysis of the request and the letter from the Board
3 is sent to the proponent, the person who submitted the
4 Special Action Request, or in the case of the Inter-
5 Tribal Fish Commission, that group, the executive
6 director. After they've received it and they've heard
7 the news of what the Board did, that package is placed
8 at our website and anyone can go to the website and see
9 it.

10
11 MR. JAMES: Can managers send them to
12 villages, tribal people?

13
14 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Yes. Yes, they can and thank you.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there a followup,
20 Mr. Charles.

21
22 MR. CHARLES: Thank you. When I hear
23 something different I've been on the marine radio and
24 tell the people in my village, do I make mistake there
25 or is it okay.

26
27 MS. KENNER: Thank you, very much. Mr.
28 Chair, may I respond.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Pippa.

31
32 MS. KENNER: You know, these -- what
33 the Board is requesting here, the action is taken by
34 the in-season manager, and Ken and his crew, they fax
35 all the villages and they have multiple ways of
36 communicating with everyone so you're right we do have
37 a mechanism to get this information to the villages.

38
39 MR. JAMES: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, I get email and so
44 whenever anybody contacts Bonnie in Kalskag she emails
45 all the people that have a computer so that works
46 really great. Because waiting for the mail to go from
47 Bethel to Tuntutuliak and somewhere else and then
48 finally to Kalskag, you can just do it over the
49 internet and it gets there right now and she

50

1 distributes that information right away. So that's
2 good, thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more
5 questions for Pippa.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
10 thank you very much for your information, Pippa.

11
12 At this time we'll go on with our --
13 continue on with our agenda, we're down to Item B,
14 Kuskokwim Fisheries In-season Management Actions. US
15 Fish and Wildlife Service.

16
17 MR. STAHLNECKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Ken Stahlnecker with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

19
20 So I'm going to pick up with the in-
21 season actions that occurred and I'm going to direct
22 you to a handout. Eva, has this been handed out yet.

23
24 MS. PATTON: I was just going to do
25 that.

26
27 MR. STAHLNECKER: I think you'll be
28 receiving this momentarily. This starts with an
29 outline and goes into detail on each of the emergency
30 special actions that were issued over the course of
31 this summer related to the fishery management. I am
32 not going -- I'll tell you right now I am not going to
33 read this entire thing, in fact, I'm not going to read
34 any of it, what I'm going to do is summarize this and
35 just kind of hit some of the key points for the season
36 for you. This is just for your reference if you care
37 to look back and see what each of the individual,
38 emergency special actions look like.

39
40 So thanks for the opportunity to
41 address the Council.

42
43 Just as a bit of background, as many of
44 you know, over the last decade the chinook salmon
45 fishery on the Kuskokwim River has declined to historic
46 population lows and it's remained at extremely low
47 levels for that entire period. That's no surprise.
48 Some of the lowest chinook salmon returns that we've
49 seen, at least since we've been recording data have

50

1 occurred over the last 10 years. Which has created
2 struggles within the community.

3
4 In 2016, again, just by way of
5 background, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the
6 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission entered
7 into a memorandum of understanding which formalized a
8 collaborative management relationship to enhance
9 management of the Kuskokwim River fishery. So early in
10 the 2017 season the Fish and Wildlife Service,
11 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, State of
12 Alaska began to meet and tried to -- we used what we
13 refer to as an objective based decisionmaking process
14 to try to define management objectives that would help
15 us outline strategies for the season and it became
16 apparent when we were looking at forecasts for chinook
17 salmon runs that we were, again, looking at a very low
18 below average year and so based on those projections it
19 was determined that -- and as Pippa pointed out, action
20 through the Federal Subsistence Board resulted in
21 Federal restrictions being placed on the chinook salmon
22 fishery for the season.

23
24 Some of those objectives that came out
25 of those meetings, management objectives was we
26 identified and began to manage for a forecast run of
27 approximately 150,000 chinook salmon. On top of that
28 we wanted to -- we identified the need and wanted to
29 manage for an escapement of 110,000 chinook salmon. So
30 if you do the math, between 150 projected and wanting
31 to make sure that we have 110 escape to the spawning
32 grounds, that left a harvest objective of approximately
33 40,000 chinook salmon. So that's how we entered the
34 season was with the objective of harvesting no more
35 than 40,000 chinook salmon for the season.

36
37 We initiated the first opener with that
38 in mind on June 12th, it was a 12 hour opener. A lot
39 of the similar net restrictions, six inch mesh, 45
40 meshes deep and so forth as we've had in the past,
41 won't go into a lot of detail there. The results of
42 that first harvest opener was that approximately 5,600
43 total salmon were harvested during that 12 hour period.
44 Of those, roughly 2,400 were chinook and about a
45 similar amount of chum salmon. And the remaining about
46 800 salmon were sockeye. This harvest estimate comes
47 from information that was collected from Tuntutuliak to
48 Akiak. So that's the extent of where the harvest
49 survey that I'm going to be speaking of actually
50

1 occurred.

2
3 Shortly after that first opener,
4 looking at our in-season assessment information that
5 was coming from the Bethel test fishery, from the
6 sonar, from the Aniak Test Fishery, it became
7 concerning and apparent that the run was not shaping up
8 as what we had forecast. As a result the Fish
9 Commission, Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Alaska
10 abandoned our pre-season objective of targeting 40,000
11 chinook salmon for harvest. We abandoned that and
12 decided to, from then on, begin to minimize the harvest
13 of chinook salmon in order to try to maximize the
14 probability of us meeting that 110,000 chinook salmon
15 escapement goal. We proceeded through another 12 days
16 where there were no fishing opportunities provided.
17 And, again, because of the concern that we were seeing
18 in the Bethel test fishery and the sonar data, those
19 in-season assessment projects, we did end up with a
20 second opener on the 24th of June, had subsequent
21 openers then on the 1st of July and the 3rd [sic] of
22 July.

23
24 I'll just summarize, rather than each
25 of those individually, the overall harvest estimate
26 over the course of the season.

27
28 So between the four openers, June 12th,
29 June 24th, July 1st and July 30th [sic] an estimated
30 total of 87,000 total salmon were harvested. Of those,
31 the predominate were chum salmon and that estimate was
32 54,400, sockeye salmon second at a little over 24,000
33 and then chinook salmon were third with approximately
34 -- or an estimated 8,600 chinook salmon being harvested
35 during that period.

36
37 On July 7th the final Special Action of
38 the season was issued which rescinded all previously
39 issued Special Actions and at that point the
40 regulations on the river reverted back to State
41 regulation.

42
43 Some of the -- I hesitate to use the
44 word, highlights, but some of the observations, I
45 guess, over the course of the summer, first of all the
46 characteristics of the 2017 chinook salmon run, which
47 appeared at the end of the summer to be a pretty
48 typical late run, which is very difficult to manage
49 for, but the characteristics of the run combined with

50

1 what the in-season data were showing us made balancing
2 the needs for providing subsistence harvest and the
3 needs for protecting the chinook run so that we could
4 ensure that there are future healthy runs made that
5 particularly challenging this year. Recognizing that,
6 I want to acknowledge the support of Kuskokwim River
7 subsistence users in all of the communities for helping
8 -- I know it was a tough time, but we couldn't have
9 made it through without support, patience, and the
10 sacrifice, frankly, from all of the users. As Mary
11 mentioned, it was an extremely, extremely difficult
12 year because we were not able to provide the amount of
13 opportunity that we would have liked to do. Believe
14 me, as Mary indicated earlier, it's not something that
15 we, as managers, enjoy doing, putting restrictions on
16 folks. I really look forward to the day when we can
17 open the fishery and let folks fish wide open. So
18 hopefully that's somewhere in our near future.

19
20 Other observations of the season were
21 that there continues to be, I think, support for
22 implementation of the decisionmaking process that was
23 used between the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Inter-
24 Tribal Fish Commission and the State of Alaska. The
25 contributions that were made by ONC, the Inter-Tribal
26 Fish Commission and the subsistence users related to
27 the in-season harvest data that I referred to. We had
28 data on the amount of fish that were harvested pretty
29 much within 24 hours after the end of each closure
30 because of the work that ONC and the Fish Commission
31 and the subsistence users were doing during and
32 immediately following those openers. So that
33 cooperation and the data were extremely valuable to
34 making in-season management decisions.

35
36 And then, finally, as I mentioned
37 earlier today, the data that came from the weirs,
38 frankly, also are, I think, worth acknowledging again
39 the fact that now post-season we are able to look at
40 the numbers that were counted in those weirs and see
41 how well we achieved, or didn't achieve escapement
42 goals on these particular tributaries, help us confirm
43 whether we made good management decisions, whether we
44 can improve those management decisions moving forward
45 and so forth. And they also contributed extremely
46 valuable information in terms of reconstructing the run
47 and helping us begin to make projections and forecasts
48 towards what next year's run may look like, which helps
49 us now over the next couple of months in leading up to
50

1 the season in beginning to strategize on what next
2 season's management may look like.

3
4 So that's my report, thanks for the
5 opportunity.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
8 -- Mr. Charles.

9
10 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 When we fish for subsistence fishing for chums last
12 summer, I was just wasting my time that time because I
13 was using 25 fathoms down below Johnson River. I think
14 I might have got less than 10 fish so we made couple of
15 sets and finally got seven or eight fish in our boat.
16 And that's why I called the Department of Fish and Game
17 that fishing down below is not like up here. We have
18 tidal action down below and we have the river is so
19 wide and have channels across so we might have been in
20 the wrong channel or something because me and my -- one
21 of my boys went out fishing and only caught seven
22 chums. So that's why I called Department of Fish and
23 Game to change our gear to 50 fathoms down below
24 Johnson.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have any
29 comment to that.

30
31 MR. STAHLNECKER: Yes. Through the
32 Chair. Thank you, Mr. Charles.

33
34 What Mr. Charles is referring to is at
35 a point when, again, the in-season assessment data were
36 showing us that the chinook salmon run was very dire we
37 did implement a river-wide restriction of 25 fathoms in
38 length for all nets. In the past, typically we've
39 allowed 50 fathom from the Johnson River down to the
40 mouth and then from the Johnson River up river was
41 limited to 25 and this year because of the dire
42 circumstances we restricted the entire river, which I
43 realize for big water down river made it more
44 difficult.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

47
48 MR. ALOYSIUS: One thing that really
49 got me the last two days is people think that the run
50

1 this year is going to determine what the run is going
2 to be next year and it's not right. The run is
3 determined by the parent year, you have to remember
4 that, and everybody else, the parent year determines
5 what next year's numbers are going to be. And it's not
6 -- we had a good -- or we had a bad year this year so
7 next year it's going to be good or bad, it doesn't make
8 sense. You have to go back to the parent year, five,
9 six, seven years for kings, and two years for chums and
10 reds.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sure you know
13 that.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 MR. STAHLNECKER: Well, probably other
18 fisheries biologist who are better able to address that
19 point here. But in many rivers, as I understand it,
20 that is typically the case, but from what I understand
21 on the Kuskokwim, actually the approach that has been
22 taken where you're looking at the year's reconstruction
23 and projecting that forward on the Kuskokwim has been
24 more accurate than using the parent year approach.

25
26 Anybody else want to chime in on that.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 MR. HARPER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
33 Ken Harper with the Fish and Wildlife Service. That is
34 correct.

35
36 After the 2013 crash that we had
37 there's a lot of analysis that went into the fishery
38 and some of that was sibling relationships and the
39 Ricker curve and some other things and having this
40 baseline data from all of our weirs has provided this
41 very good accurate or fairly accurate numbers of fish
42 that we can analyze and get a clear picture of how many
43 fish have actually gone up the river, this whole run
44 reconstruction.

45
46 Does that answer the question?

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that answer your
49 question, Bob?

50

1 MR. HARPER: A little bit.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any further
4 questions concerning the Kuskokwim fisheries in-season
5 management action.

6

7 You're from the Yukon.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Oney.

12

13 MR. ONEY: Yeah, can I ask a question
14 though.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

19

20 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Ken, for
21 your report there. And, again, I'm going to speak on
22 the spawning grounds. It seems like from hearing all
23 the reports that I get from you guys it seems like
24 there's a cutoff right at Aniak and it seems like no
25 one goes up further up river to see what the spawning
26 grounds are doing, whether it be ADF&G or Fish and
27 Wildlife, we do need to look into that and see, you
28 know, what's really going on out there. Because we
29 know for sure, for a fact, you know, that high seas has
30 contributed some declines in the chinook, both on the
31 Kuskokwim and on the Yukon and we do get reports from
32 Canada on the spawning grounds when we meet. And I'd
33 like to see that happen for the Kuskokwim too, because
34 it seems like no one doesn't know what's going on on
35 the spawning grounds here on the Kuskokwim River. I'd
36 like to at least get some kind of report from someone,
37 whether it be ADF&G or Fish and Wildlife, just to see
38 how the spawning grounds are doing, if there's mining
39 activity going on up there or, you know, that may be
40 contributing to some of the declines on the Kuskokwim,
41 as we heard from Alissa on the Steamboat Slough where
42 there's some contamination there. So I'm very
43 interested in the spawning grounds on the Kuskokwim,
44 thank you.

45

46 That is my question, thanks.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, do you have
49 an answer to that?

50

1 MR. HARPER: Through the Chair. Ken
2 Harper with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm sure
3 somebody from Fish and Game could probably answer this
4 better. But currently Fish and Game operates a weir on
5 the Holitna River so that's above Aniak. There's one
6 on the George. There's one on the Tatlawiksuk. So I'm
7 progressing up the Kuskokwim River. And there's one up
8 on the Salmon River, Salmon River Pitka Fork and also
9 at Takotna. These are current projects that are
10 monitoring escaping salmon, they're making it to the
11 spawning grounds. So there's a whole group of
12 different projects that monitor the entire drainage and
13 it's fairly well spread out and key systems that are
14 being monitored at the present time.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Mr. Oney.

17
18 Mr. Peters.

19
20 MR. PETERS: You know, I would like to
21 see similar, like the Yukon, where the Kuskokwim
22 people, because the escapement goal is very important
23 and subsistence, you know, about in-season, what the
24 escapement goal, and I would like -- you know I know
25 you guys are trying to do the best you can but I would
26 like for you to listen or take consideration of the
27 people that live along the Kuskokwim, in their area.
28 Because at times the water might be very low and, you
29 know, and if the managers or whoever, you know, would
30 work with the people that live along the river and take
31 that to some consideration.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments or
36 questions.

37
38 Mr. Brown, on the Kuskokwim in-season
39 salmon management.

40
41 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

42
43 INTERPRETER: I wanted to ask both of
44 you gentlemen how many sonar does the Kuskokwim River
45 have and in addition to that and the -- where are the
46 deepest parts of the water here on the Kuskokwim
47 because my area we do have tidal action and where does
48 the -- down at the lower end of the Kuskokwim, that's
49 where I reside and one time me and my boss, we went out

50

1 to -- we tried to put a sonar out there on the lower
2 Kuskokwim but the problem was that the current and the
3 tidal wave was too strong to hold that sonar in place
4 and so it wasn't very stable at all and we couldn't
5 place that sonar and we tried placing that sonar but
6 with the movement the numbers were not accurate at all.

7
8 MR. HARPER: Mr. Chair. Through the
9 Chair, to Charlie. Currently there's only one sonar in
10 the Kuskokwim River. That is just up river from
11 Bethel, between Bethel and the Kwethluk River
12 confluence. In the past they've tried to operate, I
13 believe, some others back in the '80s which may be the
14 time you're talking about and that's all that's there
15 now, is just the one up there in the main channel below
16 Kwethluk.

17
18 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

19
20 INTERPRETER: I also have a question.
21 Last spring during the working group meetings, last
22 year, what did you guys -- from which spawning year did
23 you expect the king salmon to come up this way, what
24 are the medium age of the salmon that are going to be
25 coming here this spring, or this fall -- or the summer --
26 I'm sorry.

27
28 MR. HARPER: Through the Chair, to
29 Charlie. The -- if you're talking about chinook salmon
30 we have several different ages that the fish come back
31 as, they will have spent one year in fresh water and
32 they'll spend two, three, four and possibly five years
33 in saltwater before they come back to the tributaries
34 here. So we're just now starting to see some of the
35 fish coming back from our really bad year of 2013 and
36 we had better escapement in 2014 and '15 so we should
37 be seeing some -- if that's true, we would see better
38 returns here in the future.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Brown.

41
42 MR. BROWN: Yeah, Qu yana.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
45 further questions on the Kuskokwim fisheries in-season
46 management action.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
2 thank you gentlemen for your presentation.

3
4 Then we are going down to the Yukon
5 Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I was just going to
10 say you might want to stay there.

11
12 MR. STAHLNECKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Ken Stahlnecker, Fish and Wildlife Service.

14
15 Thanks to one of Mr. Peters questions
16 I'm going to start off my general report by tying up a
17 loose end on the salmon report. You mentioned
18 escapement goals, I believe, and we do have the 2017
19 preliminary run reconstruction estimate from the Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game. And so that number, the
21 mid-point of that estimate is 165,000 chinook salmon
22 from the 2017 run. And, again, this is preliminary.
23 And this estimate includes a total escapement of
24 approximately 150,000 fish and a harvest of
25 approximately 15,000 fish. So, again, this is for
26 chinook only for 2017. These numbers will be further
27 finalized as some of the post-season harvest
28 assessments get finalized. But based on that, and
29 given that there is an escapement goal drainage-wide
30 from 65,000 to 120,000 chinook salmon, it looks like
31 that escapement goal of -- or the escapement projection
32 of 150,000 would have exceeded what the escapement goal
33 was for the river.

34
35 On to a couple of other items.

36
37 Again, in the handouts, I think you
38 were -- and I'm not going to go over these in great
39 detail, mostly just again point out that they're here.
40 We put in the packets a quick kind of status on
41 cackling goose population numbers, white fronted goose,
42 Emperor goose, black brant, tundra swan and for some
43 duck populations. You can take a look at that. That's
44 based on some of the projects -- waterfowl projects
45 that we've been working on. And then there's a second
46 handout there that gives just a brief summary of some
47 of the 2017 waterfowl program projects that you can
48 take a look at your leisure. As many of you are aware
49 this was the first season for the Emperor goose harvest
50

1 for approximately 30 years. We had hoped to get some
2 better information through a project that we were
3 trying to get underway last spring and into the summer
4 to better track the harvest of Emperor goose but we
5 didn't have a lot of success with that and so we're
6 going to continue to work towards that in the future so
7 we can maybe get some good community harvest
8 information on Emperors.

9
10 Another point that I wanted to make was
11 that in 2017 per regulation we did put in place, again,
12 the 30 day closure for the spring subsistence waterfowl
13 migratory bird harvest season. That was from May 25th
14 to June 25th. This was done based on information
15 collected by Fish and Wildlife Service biologists and
16 then through consultation with the Waterfowl
17 Conservation Committee of the Association of Village
18 Presidents. So, again, that's something that is
19 identified in regulation but the exact start and end
20 period of that is determined each year based on when
21 the birds actually begin nesting. So that was another
22 project.

23
24 Subsistence moose management has been
25 another, I'd say kind of an exciting thing for us.
26 This year we were actually able to offer even a longer
27 season this year than we have in the past. After
28 consultation with Chairman Wilde we identified and
29 established a 25 day hunt period for moose this year.
30 We had a harvest objective for bulls of 110 moose.
31 Based on observations it looked like the populations
32 continued to grow so, again, we felt comfortable
33 offering a set 25 day period rather than offering a
34 season that would start, and then based on reports we
35 would close it any time. We felt that it's a little
36 bit easier on the participants, on the subsistence
37 users to actually set a period of time, allow them to
38 go out during that period of time and not have to be,
39 you know, waiting and the closure triggered based on
40 when a certain level of moose had been harvested. So
41 that seemed to go well.

42
43 What I have in the handout here is the
44 update of the report of moose harvested on Federal
45 lands as of September 26. At that time it was only 56
46 moose and I'm quite certain that the State has some
47 updated reports since then and I'll leave that for
48 Patrick Jones to take care of when he gives his report,
49 unless Patrick wanted to come up now and offer what

50

1 that updated number was.

2
3 While Patrick's on his way up, the only
4 other thing I'm going to -- or last couple of things
5 I'm going to mention, as Susanna mentioned for Togiak,
6 they got a new Federal Wildlife Officer at Togiak this
7 past year, we actually, for the first time now in a
8 number of years also got a new wildlife officer on the
9 Staff. Right now he's away doing some actual flight
10 training. But we look forward to getting him back in
11 the Refuge and being able to put some more effort into
12 enforcement of some of the regulations and so forth.
13 But we've added that member to our Staff and then as
14 was described in much more detail yesterday by Janessa,
15 the science camp. We cooperated this year, the Refuge
16 did, in supporting the ONC science camp and I think
17 that was a great success from the Refuge standpoint and
18 hopefully from the ONC and from the students
19 standpoint.

20
21 And with that, Patrick if you've got an
22 update on our moose harvest numbers.

23
24 MR. JONES: Through the Chair. Patrick
25 Jones. Wildlife Conservation, Fish and Game.

26
27 So as Mr. Stahlnecker alluded to we
28 have on -- on the Kuskokwim River we have joint
29 management, State and Federal, it's the RM615 hunt,
30 it's formerly the moratorium area we had here. This
31 year we divided it into two zones, zone one and zone
32 two. Zone one would be mostly considered the mainstem
33 Kuskokwim and Gweek River. Zone two would be the
34 tributaries, or the upper tributaries in the mountains
35 of Tuluksak, Eek, Kasigluk, Kisaralik. And so total
36 permits for this hunt, we gave out 1,560 permits. We
37 had a quota of 170 moose for zone one, the mainstem
38 river. To date we've had 171 reported moose for that
39 area, antlered bulls. As you just heard we had a quota
40 of 110 for zone two and at the moment we have 71 moose
41 reported for that. The missing piece of this puzzle,
42 though, is we still have 632 that haven't reported to
43 us. We're hoping -- we're sending out letters next
44 Monday and we have ads in the papers to try and get
45 those reports in to us.

46
47 But all in all it was a successful
48 hunt.

49
50

1 Zone one was open for six days. Zone
2 two was open for 25 days. And so as the years go on,
3 since the moratorium, the quota has gotten larger and
4 the season has lasted longer. So things are still
5 improving. We also did a moose browse survey on the
6 Kuskokwim River which kind of gives us an idea on how
7 much winter food the moose have available to them and
8 the indications from that browse survey is that this
9 population is about half of what it could be. So we're
10 still growing, we still have lots of room to grow and
11 things are looking good for the moose on the Kuskokwim
12 right now.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions.

15
16 Yes, Mr. Bill.

17
18 MR. BILL: Just in short words, I want
19 you to tell me which one of these things are open this
20 year and which one of these are closed for hunting. On
21 this one. Not in long words, in short words, which one
22 is open and which one is closed.

23
24 MR. STAHLNECKER: You're referring to
25 this.....

26
27 MR. BILL: Right here.

28
29 MR. STAHLNECKER: There were seasons on
30 each of these species this year if that's what you're
31 asking.

32
33 MR. BILL: What's that. Are they all
34 open?

35
36 MR. STAHLNECKER: Yes.

37
38 MR. BILL: Okay.

39
40 MR. STAHLNECKER: Yes, there were open
41 seasons on all of these.

42
43 MR. BILL: All of them?

44
45 MR. STAHLNECKER: Yes.

46
47 MR. BILL: Thank you.

48
49 MR. STAHLNECKER: Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you for
6 your report.

7

8 Is there Western Alaska Landscape
9 Conservation Cooperative.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 MS. POWERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
14 Council members. I am very happy to be here today and
15 talk a little bit about the Western Alaska Landscape
16 Conservation Cooperative. My name is Elizabeth Powers
17 and I'm a part of the Western Alaska Landscape
18 Conservation Cooperative.

19

20 And if you're not familiar with the
21 LCC, essentially we are a self-directed partnership and
22 we're governed by individuals from tribal, State and
23 Federal entities. And essentially we come together to
24 try to develop information, collaborate on actionable
25 science and then share that information so it can help
26 inform conservation on the ground.

27

28 Do you mind switching the slide.

29

30 And this just shows an outline of an
31 area we're working in Alaska.

32

33 Next.

34

35 So the LCC was established in about
36 2011 and it's safe to say that the first several years
37 of the LCC, we focused our energy on trying to identify
38 and fill gaps in information that can help us make
39 decisions about conservation. So we worked in two year
40 cycles where we focused on filling information in about
41 fresh water, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems. And
42 in that time we funded approximately 50 different
43 projects trying to fill in informational gaps. And
44 while I don't have enough time today to go through all
45 of those projects, I thought I'd highlight just a
46 couple of the projects to show you kind of what the
47 ideas of what we're working on. So I'll highlight one
48 from coastal, freshwater and terrestrial.

49

50

1 Next.

2
3 So let's start with freshwater. When
4 we spent two years focusing on freshwater studies, we
5 recognized the importance of salmon for Alaskans. So
6 in order to address some of the conservation concerns
7 related to salmon we asked ourselves how climate change
8 may be affecting salmon and subsistence. And one of
9 the questions we didn't know was what is the effects of
10 temperature on salmon. Well, we recognized that we
11 have a lack of information about the water temperature
12 in the streams across Alaska. So we worked with
13 community members across the state to develop a
14 voluntary temperature monitoring program. We also
15 funded some work to help study the impacts of changing
16 water temperature on the life cycle of salmon. And our
17 hopes is that we can take a step forward and utilize
18 this information on the temperature change in water and
19 the effects on salmon to help inform conservation in
20 the future.

21
22 So that's just a couple examples in the
23 freshwater systems.

24
25 Next.

26
27 So now moving on to terrestrial
28 ecosystems. I'm going to focus on one project that was
29 recently completed that is pretty relevant to
30 communities in the Yukon, Kuskokwim Delta. So
31 essentially we came together with six different
32 agencies and we were able to acquire some lidar data.
33 And essentially what that is, it's high resolution
34 aerial imagery and that's a picture some of the imagery
35 of Chevak, Alaska. And this imagery can be used for a
36 variety of community development needs. It can be used
37 to monitor shoreline erosion or look at habitat change
38 within the YK-Delta.

39
40 Next.

41
42 The information is going to be hosted
43 on the website you see above, the elevation.alaska.gov
44 and that's what the interface looks like.

45
46 Next.

47
48 Okay. One example from our coastal
49 resilience work, similar to the terrestrial and
50

1 freshwater ecosystems, we also funded several projects
2 to help fill information gaps but in addition to those
3 the different studies in oceanic systems, we also
4 developed a series of four coastal resilience
5 workshops. And I have a very quick two minute video
6 that kind of outlines this coastal resilience effort.

7
8 (Video played)

9
10 MS. POWERS: All right. So those
11 workshops were located in Kotzebue, Nome, King Salmon
12 and Unalaska. And those workshops have gained a lot of
13 momentum and interest from tribal, from State and
14 Federal agencies to work together to help get a better
15 understanding of the changes occurring across Alaska
16 and develop ways that we can adapt.

17
18 Some of the outcomes that came out of
19 these series of workshops, first and foremost include a
20 set of posters, which I've hung up in the back and
21 you're free to take a look at them. And essentially it
22 provides some information about the changes we're
23 seeing throughout Alaska and some potential adaptation
24 strategies.

25
26 The LCCs came together and also
27 developed a toolbox and essentially that's a pretty
28 comprehensive report that provides information about
29 some of the different changes that are going on across
30 Alaska and potential strategies to adapt to those.

31
32 So, for example, if a community was
33 interested in learning about the effects of permafrost
34 melt in their community they could look at this
35 resource to learn more about permafrost melt.

36
37 Next.

38
39 And a subset of the participants in the
40 workshops came together to develop a group called Adapt
41 Alaska and with that a website was developed,
42 Adaptalaska.org And many of the tools and resources
43 that came out of those resilience workshops are hosted
44 on this website so you can go and look at some of the
45 different topics of conservation and learn more about
46 it.

47
48 Next.

49
50

1 Okay. So following those workshops we
2 come to the question, well, what's next after these
3 workshops.

4
5 As I had mentioned, the workshops
6 occurred in Kotzebue, Nome, King Salmon and Unalaska.
7 And it has been recognized that some of these efforts
8 may be useful in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta region. So
9 we're in the very infant stages of trying to develop a
10 series of workshops in the YK-Delta as well. Again,
11 we're in the very beginning stages of just starting to
12 have the conversations of how we can make this happen.
13 So please stay tuned and hopefully I can come to this
14 next RAC meeting and fill you in with updates with the
15 progress we've made.

16
17 I just wanted to share a couple of
18 resources. Hopefully you have the handout with the
19 websites available. I referenced a couple of the
20 projects that the Western Alaska LCC has been working
21 on. We have close to 50. And so if you'd like to
22 learn more about those projects you can go to the
23 Western Alaska LCC website and we're also on FaceBook.
24 You also see the Adapt Alaska website. And there is a
25 Northern Latitudes Resource site, which is kind of a
26 comprehensive website for the five LCCs in Alaska. And
27 over the past two days I've heard several times issues
28 being brought up about increase in vessel traffic
29 within the Bering Sea region. In the Aleutian/Bering
30 Sea Island LCC has been putting a lot of effort toward
31 into working on some of the increased vessel traffic
32 issues and so you could go to that website and learn
33 more about what they're doing to help tackle that
34 issue.

35
36 And then also contact information for
37 myself and the other LCC Staff member, Karen Murphy, so
38 feel free to come to us with any questions or advice.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are there
43 any questions for the young lady before she -- Mr.
44 Aloysius.

45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Are you
47 going to look at Newtok.

48
49 MS. POWERS: Can you describe that
50

1 word.

2

3

MR. ALOYSIUS: Newtok.

4

5 MS. POWERS: Oh, Newtok. You know that
6 has come up. Essentially we are trying to address
7 different conservation concerns throughout the 56
8 villages within the YK-Delta, and essentially at this
9 point in time we haven't determined the areas that
10 we're going to -- the focus topics that we're going to
11 address. Essentially we want to leave that decision up
12 to the locals within the YK-Delta community. So as
13 this process comes together we hope to listen to hear,
14 well, what are the conservation topics of concern and
15 which ones can we focus on. Because as we know there's
16 quite a few changes that we're observing in the
17 landscape so where do we start and where do we focus,
18 and Newtok could be one of those. And if you're
19 talking about the potential for erosion and movement of
20 the villages.

21

22

MR. ALOYSIUS: Quayana.

23

24

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

25

26

(No comments)

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
thank you for your report.

30

31

MS. POWERS: Thank you.

32

33

34

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Going on with our
agenda, the Yukon Salmon Season Overview, joint US Fish
and Wildlife and ADF&G presentation.

35

36

37

MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Eva
is passing out a couple of papers.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

As you know the Yukon is a big area.
Fish are still running. You know it's after much of
the hunting season other places but there's still fish
running and so our reports are much later than
everybody else's. One report will be Fish and Wildlife
Service, it's just a real brief summary of the season.
The other one that she's passing out is Fish and Game
has a summer season summary. So it's just focused on
the summer season. This one is way more comprehensive
and way more specific, it has a lot of details. If

1 you're looking for numbers, everything very specific
2 in-season, that's a very good reference. The fall
3 season update won't be out for quite awhile still. For
4 instance Eagle sonar just got done on Friday last week
5 and so it is very late on the Yukon.

6
7 Also, I guess as introduction I'm Fred
8 Bue, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon River Federal
9 in-season manager.

10
11 We work very closely with the State of
12 Alaska. And with that we get a lot of help from the
13 public, YRDFA, all sorts of people up and down the
14 river and we rely on everybody's help so it's not just
15 us but it's a big team and it's a big area, just
16 continuous State, Federal, private land throughout
17 there and so we are all working together.

18
19 But to summarize the season, I guess
20 I'll go through and try to keep this fairly brief.

21
22 To begin with you're all aware that the
23 run's been pretty low for chinook since 1998. There
24 was a crash, and in fact summer chum and fall chum were
25 low then too. The chum came back but the chinook
26 haven't been coming back nearly as well.

27
28 2009, things just were not getting much
29 better so we took a really aggressive approach and
30 shifted to a proactive conservation starting real
31 conservative in the season. It continued to not be so
32 good, 2012 and 2013 was our low point, even though we
33 had really severe restrictions we still weren't making
34 our goals. 2014, boy, we shut everything down pretty
35 hard on the Yukon. Since then things have been
36 improving a little bit. 2015 showed some increase.
37 2016 increase some more. And it does look like things
38 are recovering, or we're on the right track towards
39 recovery. We're certainly not there yet but it is
40 trending better.

41
42 Like I said summer chum have been
43 really good since actually 2002. You know, we had that
44 low stretch but then they came back and that really
45 complicated the situation with chinook being low and
46 chum being strong.

47
48 So on the Yukon there was a lot of work
49 with fishermen, both subsistence and commercial to
50

1 figure out ways to harvest summer chum and still
2 protect those chinook.

3
4 There was also a lot of work figuring
5 out the best way to harvest just a few chinook if we
6 had an opportunity, you know, everybody wants chinook
7 and how do you just take a few. And it's such a big
8 area, how do you make that fair for everybody up and
9 down the river, spread that harvest across not only the
10 different stocks but spread it among all the people.

11
12 So 2017 the chinook forecast was for
13 145,000 to 195,000. A run at the low end of that range
14 would require conservation efforts to make the goals
15 but a run size at the upper end would be similar to
16 what we saw in 2016, where subsistence harvest could be
17 allowed, maybe starting with six inch gear but also
18 potentially having some 7.5 gear periods to actually
19 target chinook salmon. Furthermore, we had some
20 optimism that the run may be at the higher end because
21 recent studies in the ocean survival indicated more
22 young chinook salmon were out there compared to recent
23 years and the trends seem to be continuing since 2013.

24
25 Therefore, we took into account all the
26 new management tools we've gained the last few years,
27 combined them with a great deal of fishermen
28 suggestions and feedback on how to use those in-season
29 and came up with management strategy for a conservative
30 approach prior to the season.

31
32 Our management approach for 2017 was to
33 provide more chinook harvest opportunity than we had in
34 2016, which was a little bit more than we saw in 2015.

35
36 Starting in the lower river, Lower
37 Yukon, rather than going directly to six inch gillnets
38 after ice out, we allowed 7.5 inch gillnets until the
39 chinook catches started to pick up in the test net at
40 the mouth of the river. Then we put Lower Yukon
41 fishermen on their normal window schedule but with six
42 inch gear, two 36 hour periods a week, so we allowed
43 some gillnet fishing. When the first pulse entered the
44 river, there's a regulation to close the first pulse on
45 the Yukon and so that's what we did, but at the same
46 time, simultaneously, we opened up beach seines,
47 dipnets, fishwheels, gear -- what we call selective
48 gear, it allowed us to fish for those other species and
49 still release chinook alive.

50

1 This sequence of the pulse closure and
2 the selective fishing was repeated up through
3 Subdistrict 4A. As the salmon moved up river, we'd do
4 it sequentially. It takes awhile for the fish to move
5 up river and we've timed that with the migration as it
6 moved up. Essentially subsistence fishing for chinook
7 was closed during that first pulse in the lower half of
8 the Yukon River. Near the mid-point in the run in the
9 Lower River, our assessment was showing that the run
10 may be coming in near the upper end of the preseason
11 forecast. We gained confidence in our assessment by
12 that time, we began to relax subsistence fishing
13 restrictions. We provided one 7.5 inch period. We
14 followed that by two six inch gillnet openings and then
15 we went back to 7.5 inch openings on the regulatory
16 schedule for the remainder of the season in the Lower
17 River. When about 65 percent of the chinook had passed
18 District 1, commercial fishing switched from the
19 selective gear to using six inch gillnets for the rest
20 of the season. However, fishing in District 2 came a
21 little bit more complicated because their main buyer up
22 there had pulled out and so there was a lot less buying
23 capacity up there. Some of the fishermen shifted down
24 river but also due to the capacity in District 2 we
25 left them on selective gear as a way to not overharvest
26 or harvest more than the buyer could process. And so
27 that was just unfortunate for there.

28
29 The Upper River saw fewer subsistence
30 salmon restrictions because by the time the salmon
31 arrived in these districts managers were confident the
32 assessment was showing a surplus of chinook salmon,
33 plenty for subsistence harvest so fewer restrictions
34 were implemented up there.

35
36 Subdistricts 4B and 4C and then
37 Subdistricts 5A, B, and C, they were briefly restricted
38 to selected gear around that first pulse and then they
39 were relaxed back to 7.5 inch gear while remaining on
40 their standard fishing schedule. Subdistrict 5D was
41 way up river and that's about 30 days travel time,
42 which is quite a ways, and so a majority of the fish
43 had passed through the Lower River and we have a pretty
44 good handle on what's getting up there and so they did
45 not have any restrictions at all in Subdistrict 5D.

46
47 Likewise, Subdistrict 6, or excuse me,
48 District 6, that's the Tanana River district wasn't
49 managed nearly as intensively either. That's quite a
50

1 ways up river. Because we had confidence in our
2 overall assessment, but also because our genetic
3 sampling that we did in the Lower River indicated that
4 -- or corroborated that information that the Tanana
5 River stock was doing pretty good and so it wasn't
6 necessary to continue those restrictions up into that
7 area.

8
9 ADF&G still has their subsistence
10 surveyors -- well, I think they're pretty much out of
11 the field, but now they still have a lot of compiling
12 all that data, post-season information and so we won't
13 have good subsistence harvest estimates until mid-
14 winter I think. However, as many of you have indicated
15 and speaking to a lot of other fishermen along the
16 river, people indicated that most of their chinook
17 salmon fishing needs were met. Maybe it wasn't perfect
18 but they got -- they were pretty happy compared to
19 previous years and it -- we saw a lot of smiles on
20 people's faces. We know it still wasn't perfect, it
21 wasn't great, but people -- it was a much needed relief
22 for people.

23
24 After subsistence, continuing to the
25 commercial part. The summer chum directed commercial
26 fishery, again, was impacted by the chinook
27 conservation. Like I said, dipnets and beach seines
28 were used during most of the summer during most of the
29 summer season, early. That gear is a lot less
30 efficient than gillnets but allows chinook to be
31 released alive while accounting for a significant
32 portion of the summer chum harvest.

33
34 Late in the summer season when gillnets
35 were allowed, incidental chinook were taken home for
36 subsistence use and those fish will be reported in the
37 subsistence harvest post-season.

38
39 In all districts, 1 and 2, commercial
40 harvest of summer chum was very good, the second
41 highest on record in the last 25 years anyways. Even
42 though selective gear was less efficient, 135,000
43 summer chum were harvested using that selective gear.
44 That accounts for about a third of the commercial
45 harvest of summer chum. With that selective gear,
46 4,600 chinook were caught and released. And then later
47 when gillnets were -- six inch gillnets were allowed
48 5,600 chinook were caught incidentally with those
49 gillnets and they will be reported in the subsistence
50

1 harvest, like i said. Over 3 million summer chum
2 passed the Pilot Station sonar in 2017, again, that's a
3 near record passage there. No sale of chinook was
4 allowed until the first fall chum commercial fishing
5 period, when chinook was -- the chinook run was over 99
6 percent complete in the Lower River. During that one
7 period there was 168 chinook total were sold in that
8 single period. And then the Department, after that
9 prohibited further sales due to the public confusion
10 and concern and that's going to be addressed later this
11 winter.

12
13 So escapement for the summers season.
14 Goals were met in most tributaries for chinook. The
15 border passage objective was exceeded for the fourth
16 year in a row, however, chinook escapements were still
17 below average in the Koyukuk River tributaries and then
18 summer chum escapement goals were met -- or exceeded
19 this year everywhere.

20
21 For the fall season, the fall chum
22 outlook was for an above average run, however based on
23 the excellent performance of the summer chum, the fall
24 chum run projection was upgraded to be greater than 1.1
25 million, that was the projection just going into the
26 fall season. There were no concerns for subsistence
27 and commercial would be managed with consideration for
28 subsistence and escapement goals. When transitioning
29 to the fall season management, subsistence fishermen in
30 the Lower River were allowed to use 7.5 inch gear,
31 smaller mesh, in the Middle Yukon subsistence was
32 relaxed to five days per week with 7.5 inch gillnets
33 and later they were relaxed further to seven days per
34 week. There was a concern at one point that the fall
35 chum on the Yukon, I don't know if the Kuskokwim
36 fishermen know, but they're really pulsey and so you
37 can have a really abundance couple of days of passage
38 and then when that pulse goes by there's nothing there
39 and they're difficult to catch. So with that people in
40 the middle river, the weather was good. They were
41 worried they were going to miss this really big pulse
42 of fish and because of the closure of the windows
43 happened to be that day and so the decision was just to
44 relax if there was abundance -- over abundance of fall
45 chum and so that enabled them to fish when the weather
46 was appropriate for them, and the fall season is a
47 pretty rainy time of year, hunting season is going on
48 and so it helped and we had the luxury of doing that.

49
50

1 Fishermen reports indicated excellent
2 subsistence harvest with high quality of fish. The one
3 problem area for the fall season is in the Porcupine
4 River. The Fishing Branch weir on the Upper Porcupine
5 has not been producing very well in recent years,
6 despite the exceptional runs we've had other places in
7 the Yukon, we can't explain why the Porcupine is not
8 doing well. The environment's changed for whatever
9 reason. So we did start the Porcupine River
10 cautiously. We had them on a schedule of three days
11 per week. As we got information from Old Crow, there's
12 a sonar just across the border at Old Crow, it looked
13 like fish were going to be okay there, it wasn't great,
14 but they were going to be okay and so then we relaxed
15 it to seven days a week.

16
17 Overall the preliminary drainage-wide
18 commercial harvest of fall chum was 469,000, that's the
19 highest on record. The commercial harvest for coho was
20 130,000, that's the second highest on record.

21
22 Fall chum assessment is still going on
23 in some places, like I said. 1.8 million fall chum
24 passed the Pilot Station sonar, that's near record
25 estimate. 166,000 coho passed the Pilot sonar, that's
26 above historical median. Fall chum have really unique
27 spawning areas and they're really discreet. Both the
28 Chandalar River and the border passage at Eagle were
29 well above average and have by far exceeded their
30 goals. Fish are just starting to arrive on spawning
31 grounds at Big Delta in the Upper Tanana River. Their
32 peak counts are expected to be around end of October,
33 early November and that's similar in the case of coho
34 in the Upper River. The Lower River we still have
35 coho moving in but they get really late. Old Crow on
36 the Porcupine they fish them through the ice with
37 gillnets, coho, so it's a long ways up there and it's
38 wintertime by the time they get there.

39
40 I think that concludes my report.

41
42 I don't know if anybody from Fish and
43 Game is still on, Holly Carroll or Jeff Estensen.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Is there
48 any questions for Fred Bue.

49
50

1 Mr. Aloysius.

2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Not a question but a
4 comment. I never seen so many happy people on the
5 Yukon come over to the Kuskokwim. A lot of them bring
6 fish, frozen and it was delicious.

7
8 MR. BUE: I think that's gone both ways
9 in the past so returning the favor is good.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: One comment I got,
14 Fred, is, you know, we go to meetings where a lot of
15 people from up river are involved in the meetings that
16 we go to and everybody that was up river was smiling
17 because this was the first time some of those people
18 had chinook in a few years so they were happy up river
19 too as well as they were down river.

20
21 MR. BUE: It's similar on the
22 Kuskokwim, the Yukon is a big area and everybody wants
23 those first fish and that's for sure, you know, of
24 course they're the best, the nicest, the brightest,
25 what you're going to get in your mouth is watering just
26 anticipating them coming and that is the challenge, to
27 spread them out. I think working with the fishermen
28 has helped a lot.

29
30 The Lower River, we watched the
31 weather, watched the tides and we have to plan,
32 guessing when they're going to be, but we work with the
33 fishermen to try to figure out how much we can catch.
34 Fishermen don't want to catch too many but that
35 opportunity only comes once and so you have to hope for
36 the best, I guess.

37
38 Appreciate it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Fred. Any
41 other questions for Fred.

42
43 MR. PETERS: Fred, you know, like where
44 I live at Marshall, you know, I'm glad you explain
45 about the numbers but Marshall we have two tribes and
46 they've been very helpful, like Ohagamiut and Marshall
47 TC and conservative about the fish and, you know, I'm
48 glad you gave information about that Eagle sonar and
49 about the estimate escapement goal, that's something

50

1 that they always watch. And I know for a fact there's
2 a lot of side streams for, you know, for the fish to go
3 and spawn and I just thought I'd let you know, but
4 thank you very much.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
7 for Mr. Bue.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
12 thank you, Mr. Bue.

13
14 MR. BUE: I have one more piece of
15 business, just to inform you, you probably are all
16 aware of it, many of you sit on the State ACs, but I
17 just wanted to bring up that I do have -- next week the
18 Board of Fish has a work session, there's agenda change
19 requests there. I brought -- again, my brain is just
20 thinking Yukon, but there's also five regulatory
21 proposals that will be brought for the Kuskokwim.
22 There's six regulatory proposals regarding the Yukon.
23 They're not deliberating on the proposals themselves
24 but they're trying to decide if they should put it on
25 to their winter agenda to take proposals out of cycle.

26
27 Like I referenced, for the Yukon, one
28 of them was to talk about whether or not they could
29 sell those incidental chinook, that was a big issue
30 this summer. There's some interest in expanding the
31 driftnet fishery in 4B and C, they think there's a lot
32 of erosion and a lot of the setnet sites are
33 disappearing up there. They don't -- they're not
34 allowed drift gillnets and so they're requesting that.
35 There's a couple others, District 1 boundary, they had
36 some confusion with that, you know, last year or two.
37 They tried to expand it for the commercial pink salmon
38 fishery and so they wanted to clarify those.

39
40 But those are a few things that the
41 Board of Fish is going to take up next week in the
42 regulatory cycle. If you want I have these papers. As
43 a RAC, you're probably not going to be able to comment
44 on them, depending on when they go on the agenda, you
45 may have an opportunity to comment on a proposal if it
46 goes forward, or you may not. But being aware of it,
47 going back to your village, community and watch for
48 that proposal to come out so that you know if you need
49 to provide input someplace along the line.

50

1 So I just wanted to bring that to your
2 attention.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Fred.

5
6 Mr. Brown.

7
8 MR. BROWN: I just want to ask you, I'm
9 not really familiar about that Yukon, how far do they
10 have to spawn. I heard that the river is a long ways
11 up -- it goes up all the way to Canadian border.

12
13 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Brown.
14 It's a very big river. Fish spawn, like you say, from
15 one end of the river to the other. They spawn in
16 Pastoliak, right at Kotlik, you know, fishermen are
17 fishing right on the spawning grounds there, they go
18 all the way to the border and beyond. They go through
19 the Yukon Territory, they actually go to the northern
20 part of British Columbia, Teslin is right at the border
21 there, if you look at a map, the Stikine River in
22 Wrangell in Southeast Alaska, that's the other side of
23 the mountain, one side goes to the Stikine and one side
24 goes to the Yukon and the other side goes into the
25 Columbia River, Fraser River, so it's 2,000 miles, if
26 you go from Nunam Iqua all the way to Teslin and then
27 they go in all directions.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

32
33 MR. BROWN: Quyana.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
36 for Mr. Bue on the Yukon River salmon season overview.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you very
41 much for your report, Mr. Bue.

42
43 Is ADF -- is the Department of ADF&G on
44 line to give a report.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I guess ADF&G is no
49 longer available.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
2 did call Holly Carroll a little bit ago to give her a
3 head's up that the report was up. They provide the
4 materials and the presentation, they work on it jointly
5 and so they are part of that presentation and.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.

8
9 Next on the agenda is a young lady from
10 YRDFA, Danielle, you've got the floor.

11
12 MS. STICKMAN: Okay. I know we're all
13 ready to be done and so I'll try to keep it short.

14
15 Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and members
16 of the Council. My name is Danielle Stickman. My
17 mother is from Nondalton, which is in Bristol Bay, and
18 my father is from Galena. I am the communications and
19 outreach director for Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
20 Association.

21
22 And first I would like to thank all of
23 you for having us here and to honor your ancestors who
24 took such great care of the land and animals of this
25 region, so, thank you.

26
27 The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
28 Association would like to take this opportunity to
29 share a bit about our present programs, there's quite a
30 few. And so I'll be reporting on Wayne Jenkins, the
31 director's programs as well as mine and Catherine
32 Moncrieff, our anthropologist's programs. And as an
33 association of Yukon River subsistence and commercial
34 fisheries with the mission of protecting and promoting
35 all healthy fisheries and cultures on the Yukon River.
36 We wish to share our great appreciation for the funders
37 that support our efforts. And please note our oral
38 reports are shortened, somewhat shortened and our more
39 detailed reports are on Page 157 in your books.

40
41 So the first project is building and
42 maintaining public support of salmon resource
43 management. This project is funded by US Fish and
44 Wildlife Service through the Yukon River Panel's
45 Resource Management Fund. This project has the goal to
46 maintain and improve public support and participation
47 in management of Yukon River salmon within the Alaska
48 portion of the Yukon River basin.

49
50

1 Through our annual board member meeting
2 we foster two way communications and information
3 sharing with State and Federal managers and fisheries
4 research. Communications and outreach efforts of this
5 program supports better understanding of Yukon River
6 fishery biology, management challenges and objectives,
7 differing river conditions and challenges to meeting
8 subsistence needs and encourages fishing approaches
9 that support meeting escapement goals in the face of
10 historical decline of chinook salmon. So a lot of
11 these things you just heard from Fred.

12
13 We are especially focused on meeting
14 our escapement goal agreements with Canada as they
15 stocks comprise a critical 50 percent of the spawning
16 population. Using mailing surveys, our website,
17 FaceBook page and individual phone calls and our annual
18 teleconferences, our preseason management planning
19 meetings as well as through other outreach efforts,
20 like the revived newsletter and pamphlets I gave you,
21 we're striving to keep Yukon River communities informed
22 and connected to build support for fisheries management
23 and the rebuilding of critically important chinook
24 salmon stock for subsistence harvest.

25
26 So this year's chinook, like Fred said,
27 salmon runs for the Yukon River were the best seen
28 since 2005, and from the reports on the YRDFA
29 teleconferences, almost all Alaska Yukon River
30 communities have met their subsistence needs with
31 higher proportions of king salmon along with other
32 species. So this is a very different picture than the
33 very low 2014 subsistence harvest levels. But the
34 sacrifices that have been made previously which support
35 meeting the escapement goals in Canada and in Alaska
36 likely could not be achieved without fisher's
37 conservation efforts. So thank you.

38
39 We would also like to extend gratitude
40 to the fisheries managers during challenging, budgetary
41 times and working with the complex multi-species
42 fishery. It is evident that they have a deep
43 sensitivity to the needs of the Yukon River fishing
44 communities and for the fourth year the important
45 escapement goal for Canadian bound chinook salmon was
46 exceeded while also meeting subsistence needs.

47
48 And so we still have a long way to go
49 but we have hope that this year's improved runs may be
50

1 evidence that we are heading in the right direction.

2

3 The next project is the preseason
4 salmon fishery preparation meeting.

5

6 The YRDFA preseason salmon fishery
7 preparation meetings have been hosted by YRDFA for the
8 past seven years and have become an important part of
9 the annual management planning cycle for the
10 subsistence and commercial fisheries on the Yukon
11 River. So following the day after the YRDFA Board
12 meeting with an expanded attendance of invitees
13 selected from local communities the full length of the
14 river, fishers, managers, researchers, and other
15 stakeholders came together for a full day designed to
16 prepare everyone for the fishing season ahead. The
17 2017 meeting was held in Fairbanks and it hosted 88
18 Yukon River fishers and community representatives and
19 16 fishery managers and Staff. There's a post meeting
20 evaluation that always takes place and the overall
21 response was participants were pleased with the overall
22 quality of the event. And so the aim of this year's
23 collaborative efforts by fishers and fishery managers
24 on the Yukon River was to ensure the meeting of
25 escapement goals and, if possible, provide
26 opportunities for some harvest of chinook if the run
27 size supported a less restrained approach and this is
28 what happened with the Canadian escapement goals being
29 surpassed.

30

31 The next project is the in-season Yukon
32 River salmon teleconferences. These started in 2000,
33 in the year 2000 and it's the in-season salmon
34 management teleconference program. And it's provided a
35 practical and useful method for fishers, processors,
36 managers and other stakeholders in Yukon River salmon
37 fisheries to discuss the complexities of salmon
38 management and gain immediate real-time information
39 across the entire river. The teleconferences have
40 enabled the local users to provide valuable insight to
41 fisheries managers on in-season salmon subsistence
42 needs, river conditions, and abundance and quality of
43 salmon available. Information from the fishers allows
44 managers to adjust timing and gear types for meeting
45 these management goals. In addition, subsistence users
46 gain a better understanding of different research
47 projects and management tools the State and Federal
48 managers are utilizing and the status of fishing
49 conditions in other areas of the drainage.

50

1 So Pippa did a presentation on the
2 FRMP funds, this is an FRMP project and we really
3 greatly appreciate their funding. As this program has
4 evolved, it has become a regular fixture of in-season
5 salmon management and with calls occurring every
6 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. from early June to the end of
7 August, and the numbers are on those little fish
8 magnets that I gave you. So there is a great value in
9 having a public forum that is accessible to the people
10 of the Yukon River to call in to hear firsthand about
11 the status of the salmon fisheries and to be able to
12 share what they're seeing and experiencing during the
13 fishing season.

14
15 The 2017 calls had lower attendance,
16 possibly due to the increased opportunity to harvest
17 king salmon for subsistence and the very strong chum
18 salmon runs, mostly used in the Lower River for
19 commercial harvest, but in other areas for subsistence.
20 And it was clear from the calls that there were some
21 concerns about using larger mesh gillnets for kings but
22 the strength of the chinook runs for the first time in
23 many years proved more than adequate to meet Canadian
24 and most Alaskan escapement goals. And fishers from
25 almost all areas of the river voiced their deep
26 appreciation to management for the opportunity and
27 commented repeatedly on the final quality of fish.

28
29 This is one of Wayne's last projects
30 and I have also recently joined this project. It's
31 YRDFA Yukon River community engagement support for BLM
32 Resource Management Planning.

33
34 So in 2014, July of 2014 YRDFA began
35 assisting communities with engagement in the Bureau of
36 Land Management Resource Management Planning Process,
37 lots of acronyms, BLM RMP. All Federal land management
38 agencies are directed by Congress, by the Federal Land
39 Policy Management Act of 1976 to create resource
40 management plans for guiding management decisions,
41 usually over the next 15 to 20 years. And this process
42 is public and seeks through direct engagement to gain
43 input on issues and concerns that revolve management of
44 the public lands the agency is responsible for.

45
46 So three of these RMPs include portions
47 of the Yukon River and are in active planning mode.

48
49 The Eastern Interior and the Central
50

1 Yukon and Bering Sea Western Interior regions are
2 currently in that planning process.

3
4 YRDFA's community support work is
5 focused on the Central Yukon and Bering Sea, Western
6 Interior RMP and is useful as the process is complex
7 and BLM is short on Staff and local capacity to
8 understand and bring important issues forward. So
9 early on tribal councils in communities made it clear
10 that their main concerns were access to and protection
11 of traditional use areas necessary for continuing their
12 way of life. So protecting fish, moose, caribou and
13 everything else that make life possible in rural Alaska
14 in these areas.

15
16 Requests were made to individual Native
17 communities with one million or more acres of BLM lands
18 within 50 miles for meeting with tribal councils and
19 community members for discussing further protection of
20 traditional use areas by nominating them as areas of
21 critical environmental concerns, so ACECs. And these
22 areas were mapped by use and watershed and in some
23 cases ADF&G already had maps that had mammals, bears,
24 moose, caribou and small mammals, salmon and non-salmon
25 fish species, birds, waterfowl, greens and berries. We
26 added some things like areas important for drinking
27 water, fish spawning areas and wood gathering. And
28 these maps were identified -- these watersheds were
29 identified and overlayed on BLM managed lands and then
30 these areas were nominated by tribal councils.

31
32 The communities on the Yukon River
33 which have made ACEC nominations are Marshall, Holy
34 Cross, Koyukuk and Ohagamiut in the Western Interior
35 BLM planning region, Loudon, Ruby, Huslia and Hughes
36 Tribal Councils have also nominated ACECs in Central
37 Yukon BLM planing region. Some of these areas overlap.
38 And also the Yukon River villages of Anvik, Grayling
39 and Nulato have nominated ACECs working with Suzanne
40 Little who is PEWs Alaska field officer.

41
42 So the desire of the tribal governments
43 in their communities in making these nominations is to
44 increase BLMs understanding of the importance of these
45 areas, request their protection through the RMP and the
46 ACEC process and as a way to address the Federal
47 government's trust responsibility with tribal nations.

48
49 I joined this project in April 2017 and
50

1 started with outreach to Edzeno Tribal Council, which
2 is Nikolai Tribal Council as well as Telida Tribal
3 Council and the -- as well as -- I'm going to butcher
4 this name, Iqurmiut, Traditional Council in Russian
5 Mission, and Wayne and I, along with Suzanne, we
6 continue to work with and reach out to Yukon and
7 Kuskokwim River communities for improved engagement
8 with BLM and the planning regions mentioned. And more
9 information could be found on the FaceBook Page which
10 is: Our Land, Our Voice, Our Future, and you can
11 contact me or Wayne if you wanted more details and it's
12 in the newsletter.

13

14 So I have three projects.

15

16 The first one is Yukon River education
17 and outreach. This project is funded by the National
18 Fish and Wildlife Foundation. And one of the project
19 outcomes was to develop educational workshops along the
20 Yukon River and due to the abundant amount of
21 information sharing and networking at the YRDFA annual
22 preseason meeting, we decided to hold a young fishers
23 workshop in Fairbanks on April 19th, 2017. And six
24 young fishers, ages 18 to 40, who have not been
25 involved in fisheries management or regulatory meetings
26 were chosen to participate. They were from Fort Yukon,
27 Beaver, Tanana, Ruby, Anvik and Emmonak. They attended
28 the preseason meeting and a three hour Yukon River
29 fisheries workshop. And these young fishers were
30 suggested either by YRDFA Board member or tribal chief,
31 tribal council or an agency partner who works closely
32 with Yukon River communities, and one also applied
33 through our FaceBook page.

34

35 The workshop provided educational
36 materials on salmon biology, regulatory processes,
37 health of the runs, management processes and much more.
38 The workshop structure was held in the forum of a
39 talking circle, with several Yukon River fisheries
40 managers from ADF&G, US Fish and Wildlife, to share
41 their knowledge and it was facilitated by me. And it
42 was a great opportunity for young fishers and managers
43 to talk freely and to answer questions either party may
44 have had of the other. So the young fishers they
45 provided a lot of insight, knowledge and background to
46 where their views are coming from and they provided
47 recommendations for improving methods of information
48 sharing. They also identified gaps of data, like
49 fishing gear and different names of salmon that makes

50

1 it difficult for newcomers to come to management
2 meetings or Council meetings, to be able to understand
3 and participate effectively, so some of the new methods
4 of communication are being implemented, like we started
5 a Young Yukon River Fishers FaceBook Group and we're
6 taking steps to integrate young fishers into our
7 organizational meetings and planning another workshop
8 in spring 2018.

9
10 And YRDFA is in the process of applying
11 for a grant extension for this project to make it go
12 through spring 2018, to continue build our
13 relationships, outreach efforts and communication
14 methods to all key fishers associated along the Yukon
15 River.

16
17 The next project that I'll talk about
18 is, it's a little article in the newsletter as well;
19 Salmon Know No Borders. This is 2017 Yukon River
20 Exchange. It's funded by the Yukon River Panel
21 through the restoration and enhancement fund. Five
22 participants from Alaska went to Canada in August
23 2017. Sven Paukan from St. Mary's, Peter Tyson from St.
24 Mary's, Katlyn Zuray from Tanana, Fred West from
25 Anchorage Office of ADF&G and I, we went to Canada for
26 a week and that project is detailed more in the
27 newsletter. But I just wanted to highlight my favorite
28 part of that trip was visiting a 98 year old woman in
29 Carmacks who still cut her own fish with her 81 year
30 old daughter, and it was just amazing to see that.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: An 11 year old
33 daughter you said.

34
35 MS. STICKMAN: 81 year old daughter.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MS. STICKMAN: 98 and 81. And so that
40 was really great to see her fish. And it was a success
41 and this project continues to be an important project
42 to continuing approach to solving some of the larger
43 Yukon River fisheries challenges because it's a huge
44 river, and some people don't know where it actually
45 ends. So by building an understanding these
46 relationships through stories and experiences and
47 sharing ways of life that revolve around salmon.

48
49 The other project is building and
50

1 maintaining public support of salmon resource
2 management, which is how we got the funding for the
3 YRDFA newsletters. This project is funded by US Fish
4 and Wildlife Service through the Yukon River Panel's
5 resource management fund.
6

7 We receive this funding to build and
8 maintain public support and meaningful participation in
9 salmon resource management. This project will also
10 increase awareness and participation in management in
11 conservation of Yukon River salmon stocks by reviving
12 the newsletter. Many Yukon River residents have shared
13 how much they miss the newsletters along with our Board
14 members and how it's important for keeping up to date
15 on the fishery.
16

17 So the outreach and design is intended
18 to be two-way communication. To inform Yukon River
19 stakeholders about management measures, fisheries
20 monitoring and research and for providing traditional
21 and local knowledge issues and concerns from river
22 communities and fishers. So we have funding to do
23 three newsletters, this is the first out of the three.
24 The second will be coming out in spring 2018. The
25 third will be fall 2018. And we'll also have
26 electronic copies, and the hard copies are for our
27 lifetime members. Also I have a list if you'd like to
28 receive a hard copy also for the Regional Council
29 members, such as yourselves. And as this is the first
30 newsletter since 2014 we'd like to hear your feedback.
31 It's a little different format than the last newsletter
32 so please let us know how you like it or what you would
33 like to see in the future ones.
34

35 So these are the last few projects, I
36 promise.
37

38 This one is Yukon River in-season
39 salmon harvest survey and it's funded by the Office of
40 Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring
41 Program. This one is by Catherine Moncrieff, she's the
42 main worker for this. She's our anthropologist. And
43 for the 2017 summer fishing season, we hired 10
44 community surveyors for the in-season salmon survey
45 program. The participating communities were Alakanuk,
46 Mountain Village, Marshall, Russian Mission, Anvik,
47 Ruby, Huslia, Tanana, Fort Yukon and Eagle. These were
48 the same communities as 2016. And this year the
49 surveyors traveled to Fairbanks for the preseason
50

1 summer preparation meeting and surveyor program. So
2 the surveyors feel informed by attending the planning
3 meeting and enjoy the opportunity to meet and network
4 with surveyors as well as fishers attending the other
5 meeting.

6
7 This year our surveyors interviewed 155
8 households in 10 communities and 455 interviews between
9 May 30th and July 31st. Our goal was to interview more
10 fishermen this year and we were able to meet our goal.

11
12
13 The table in your meeting book
14 summarizes the number of households that participated,
15 I believe it's also in the newsletter and comparing the
16 number of interviews between 2016 and 2017. Most of
17 the surveyors reported that the fishermen were very
18 happy with the fishing opportunities, the chance to use
19 7.5 inch nets and in most communities the fishermen
20 were able to meet their needs.

21
22 Sorry, I'm just reading over -- there's
23 a typo.

24
25 So since we submitted our reports for
26 your meeting books, we completed the post season
27 program evaluation, which we conduct annually with
28 surveyors, managers, fishers and representatives at the
29 tribal councils. This year we found that those
30 surveyed feel that the program does help to keep
31 fishers and managers informed and engaged as to what is
32 happening on the river in-season, although in some
33 communities not all fishers want to participate. The
34 surveyors really enjoy the training event and the
35 opportunity to network and learn from each other. They
36 also enjoy participating in the teleconferences and
37 feel that a lot of good information is shared up and
38 down the river. And we know that retaining surveyors
39 from year to year improves their performance and so
40 some of the community representatives reviewing the
41 program found that participation has broadened their
42 perspective on the vastness of the river and the people
43 along it.

44
45 So thank you to the RACs and the
46 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for supporting
47 this program.

48
49 Three more by Catherine, almost done.
50

1 Customary trade in the Upper Yukon
2 River is funded by OSM as well, it's FRMP.

3
4 This project is wrapping up in December
5 and we will be excited to share our results. As you
6 know this project is in partnership between YRDFA and
7 ADF&G Subsistence. The study communities are Manley Hot
8 Springs, Fort Yukon and Venetie. And the draft
9 technical report has been submitted to OSM and are
10 currently conducting our final community reviews. So
11 Catherine will be in Fort Yukon, she was just there
12 yesterday to draft results and gather community
13 feedback.

14
15 The other project is how people of the
16 Yukon River value salmon. A case study in the Lower,
17 Middle and Upper portions of the Yukon River. This is
18 funded by the North Pacific Research Board and the
19 project is also in its final stage with the final
20 report due in December of this year. The study
21 communities are Russian Mission, Nenana and Fort Yukon.
22 And the community review workshops have been held in
23 all three communities and their comments have been
24 incorporated in the final draft. So these will be
25 shared widely once it's complete.

26
27 Final program is Yukon River salmon
28 declines, learning from tradition workshop. This was a
29 project funded by National Science Foundation. So in
30 January and early February of 2017, YRDFA brought six
31 elders from the Lower Yukon to Anchorage to speak
32 Yup'ik about king salmon for three days. The focus of
33 the workshop was elder knowledge in salmon fishing.
34 Again, this project and some pictures of the elders
35 that participated is in that newsletter. Discussing
36 the history, challenges, traditional place names,
37 harvest patterns, diet and food preparation,
38 traditional fishing practices, weather, river
39 conditions, other animal and plant communities related
40 to these practices. The elders who participated were
41 Frances Charlie of Scammon Bay, Raymond Waska of
42 Emmonak, Michael Hunt of Kotlik, Nick Andrew, Sr., of
43 Marshall, Paul Beans of Mountain Village and Evan Polty
44 of Pilot Station. We wanted to thank them for their
45 time and sharing their knowledge and our hearts go out
46 to the family and friends of Paul Beans, who passed on
47 since this workshop was held.

48
49 Since the workshop we have been working
50

1 on transcribing and translating the many tape
2 recordings of the discussions and this will be
3 completed later this fall and we will turn the
4 discussions into a summary document to be shared widely
5 with communities, managers, scientists and other
6 interested parties, and other results will be provided
7 later.

8
9 Thank you all so much for listening to
10 all those reports.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MS. STICKMAN: That's a lot to report.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MS. STICKMAN: But thank you, any
19 questions.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
24 Danielle.

25
26 Mr. Aloysius.

27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. First time
29 I've ever heard anyone thanking our ancestors, thank
30 you for that.

31
32 MS. STICKMAN: Through the Chair. Mr.
33 Aloysius.

34
35 Guyana. I think it's important to
36 acknowledge those that have taken such great care of
37 the land and I think it's important, thank you.

38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: If I didn't get anything
40 else, I got that, thank you.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MS. STICKMAN: Through the Chair, thank
45 you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments or
48 questions for Danielle.

49
50

1 Mr. Peters.

2

3 MR. PETERS: I just want to thank you
4 for the report. I know it's pretty long and lengthy but
5 thank you very much.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Oney.

8

9 MR. ONEY: Thank you. I think Mike
10 stole the words right out of my mouth, too, I want to
11 thank you for that good long report. I think it's
12 through a lot of sacrifices that people made all up and
13 down the Yukon to come to this point that we seen this
14 past summer. So it goes back almost 20 years having
15 the chinook salmon, were beginning to decline, and
16 we've fought through, nail and teeth, you know, to try
17 and rebuild the stocks, even in people in False Pass,
18 we had to, you know, fight with, you know, so the high
19 seas, bottom trawl fishing that we had to also contend
20 with to deal with our chinook salmon on the Yukon, and
21 I thank all the people all up and down the Yukon for
22 making the sacrifices that they've done over the years
23 to rebuild these stocks. My heart goes out to all the
24 people all up and down the Yukon and especially, you, a
25 young person coming into this field and to learn about
26 what's been happening all up and down the Yukon, so I
27 commend you for your report.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody else.

32

33 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Where?

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who was that, was that
40 from the teleconference?

41

42 REPORTER: Yes.

43

44 MR. ALSTROM: Yes.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead.

47

48 MR. ALSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Yeah, this is Bill Alstrom from St. Mary's. I've been
50

Page 300

1 listening in and I would like to acknowledge Danielle
2 Stickman for such a good report she made, that was a
3 really thorough report about the dealings of YRDFA. I
4 serve as the Lower River Co-Chair and also the other
5 members that sit on that Board that are involved with
6 YRDFA, it's been an ongoing organization for the last
7 20-some years. I would just like to comment on
8 Danielle, on what a good job she's doing.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Bill.

13

14 Any other comments.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, I would like
19 to say, Danielle, thank you very much for your report.
20 It's always a pleasure to be able to listen to one of
21 our young people, coming from our area, to be able to
22 listen to you and to understand what you're talking
23 about, and to know that you know what you're talking
24 about, is a real pleasure.

25

26 Thank you very much for your report.

27

28 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
29 Members of the Council.

30

31 (Applause)

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You're the only one
34 that ever got applause.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are going down to
39 the BLM report -- is that what you're going to do.....

40

41 MS. PATTON: No. Mr. Chair.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE:Mr. Kron.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
46 just have a brief report and BLM will not be reporting
47 themselves but they did reply to the Council's letter.
48 And Danielle had reported very briefly on the YRDFA's
49 work with the BLM management planning process, which

50

1 does include some of the YK-Delta region communities.

2
3 If you might recall at the winter
4 meeting, Native Village of Marshall and Ohagamiut Tribe
5 had submitted a request for areas of critical
6 environmental concern that would more fully encompass
7 their important subsistence areas in that region and
8 this Council made a motion to draft a letter in support
9 of that request from Native Village of Marshall and
10 Ohagamiut Tribe and directed that letter to BLM in
11 support of their nominations for the ACEC in that area.

12
13 So the BLM did reply to the Council and
14 their letter is on Page 166 and I can very briefly, if
15 you would like to -- I could very briefly read that
16 letter to the Council.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Very, very briefly.

19
20 MS. PATTON: It will be very briefly.

21
22 And I'm just going to touch on the key
23 points. So the letter that the Council wrote was in
24 support of the villages nomination for those ACECs.
25 The BLM responded directly to the Council -- to the
26 tribal councils, that those ACEC nominations were not
27 supported and they had written a letter to the Council
28 with a full explanation of that process and also a
29 report for their reference. And they note, while the
30 Ohagamiut ACEC did not meet the relevance and
31 importance of the criteria for the BLM, recognizes the
32 importance of the subsistence way of life of Native
33 Village of Marshall and the traditional council and
34 Alaska Native communities related to subsistence issues
35 are important considerations for the Bering Sea Western
36 Interior Resource Management Plan.

37
38 So in short they were thanking the
39 council for that nomination and they offered if the
40 Council has any questions they provided their contact
41 information. And, again, YRDFA is continuing to work
42 with communities on that management planning process.

43
44 So that's it for -- just wanted to make
45 sure the Council got that reply from BLM in terms of
46 your letter.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions on the
49 BLM reply to our nomination, or Marshall.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
4 thank you.

5

6 MR. RUNFOLA: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll go on to our
9 next agenda item is OSM, but it doesn't say anything,
10 but I suppose you're going to say that you're from OSM
11 and that your name is Mr. Tom Kron.

12

13 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Members of the
14 Council. Tom Kron from OSM.

15

16 MR. RUNFOLA: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you.

19

20 MR. KRON: First, my sincerest thanks
21 to this Regional Advisory Council for the opportunity
22 to report to you, for the hospitality of the Yukon
23 Delta Refuge and for the community of Bethel and the
24 public for attending the meeting.

25

26 My report will be brief.

27

28 I've been watching the clock and I've
29 gone in and cut a bunch out of the report.

30

31 So there were three recent hires at
32 OSM, Jennifer Hardin, Christine Brummer and Thomas
33 Doolittle.

34

35 Jennifer was an internal lateral
36 transfer into the vacant policy coordinator position.
37 In her prior life Dr. Hardin was an American Indian
38 Liaison and National Park Service anthropologist at
39 Yosemite National Park. At OSM she served as the
40 Anthropology Division supervisor and was an acting
41 Fisheries Division supervisor, which has given her a
42 breadth of experience to excel at the position of
43 policy coordinator.

44

45 Since Jennifer was the former
46 anthropology lead, this has created a vacancy for the
47 anthropology lead position.

48

49 Christine Brummer, she was hired as a

50

1 pathways student while she's attending UAA as an
2 anthropology student.

3
4 Thomas Doolittle took the OSM Deputy
5 Assistant Regional Director position in February. He
6 started his career with the National Park Service and
7 then worked for 12 years as the fish and wildlife
8 biologist and program supervisor and as the law
9 enforcement supervisor and warden for the Bad River
10 Band of Lake Superior Tribe Chippewa Indians. Then he
11 came to Alaska as a supervisory biologist and later
12 became the Deputy Refuge manager at the Yukon Delta
13 National Wildlife Refuge station here in Bethel. After
14 seven years in Western Alaska he went back to Wisconsin
15 and reconnected with five new grandkids and took on a
16 short-tail grouse restoration project with the US
17 Forest Service. Next, he returned to the Tongass
18 National Forest supervising fish, wildlife, subsistence
19 and watershed management programs on Prince of Wales
20 Island in Southeast Alaska before accepting the
21 position with OSM in February.

22
23 Palma Ingles retired as OSM
24 anthropologist.

25
26 Don Rivard retired from OSM fisheries.

27
28 Sabrina Schmidtt left at our front desk
29 because her husband was resigned in the military.

30
31 So we're down four positions and are
32 essentially in a hiring freeze. We'll attempt to get
33 waivers but they need to go through headquarters in
34 Washington, D.C., to get approval. At best it may take
35 a year to refill these positions.

36
37 We are still awaiting approval from the
38 Department of Interior to publish the January 2017
39 Federal Subsistence Board approved fish regulations in
40 the Federal Register. There has been heavy scrutiny of
41 regulations passed within the last 90 days of the last
42 Administration and this review has taken a long time.
43 The regulations are at the printer but need to be in
44 the Federal Register before printing or we can't
45 enforce the regulations. All provisions -- all
46 previous regulations are in effect since new
47 regulations are considered revisions of the old
48 regulations, however, OSM is pleased that the wildlife
49 cycle was approved by headquarters and the Department

50

1 of Interior and is moving forward and that our Regional
2 Advisory Councils and Federal Subsistence Board are
3 functioning as normal.

4
5 Preliminary budgets at OSM for the
6 coming year look about the same as last year. The
7 President's budget and the recently passed House budget
8 for subsistence looks similar to last year's budget as
9 well. We are currently on a continuing resolution
10 until December. There is still the possibility of
11 large cuts but so far so good for our base operations.

12
13 As you know, ANILCA provides for the
14 continuation of opportunity for subsistence uses by
15 rural residents in Alaska on Federal public lands.
16 ANILCA recognizes that subsistence is essential for
17 physical, economic, traditional and cultural existence.
18 As you know .805(c) of ANILCA requires deference to
19 Regional Advisory Councils concerning taking of fish
20 and wildlife on Federal lands for subsistence. You
21 provided recommendations on wildlife proposals
22 yesterday. Based on ANILCA, the Council has real
23 deference in the regulatory decisionmaking process
24 concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal
25 lands for subsistence.

26
27 The Federal Subsistence Management
28 Program is unique in the world.

29
30 We are a bottom up program, where all
31 of you are part of one of the world's best examples of
32 wildlife and fisheries management.

33
34 Thank you all for all you do.

35
36 Next, I'd like to ask for a round of
37 applause for this Council and all of you.

38
39 (Applause)

40
41 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I will do my
42 best to answer questions.

43
44 Quayana.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
47 Any questions for Mr. Kron.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I know that you are
2 going to do a good job, and you did a good job, there
3 are no questions. Thank you very much Mr. Kron.

4
5 MR. RUNFOLA: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are down to Item
8 13. Future meeting dates.

9
10 MR. RUNFOLA: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

13
14 MR. RUNFOLA: Forgive me for
15 interrupting, this is Dave Runfola from Alaska
16 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division. And
17 I understood that you called for Fish and Game reports
18 and I promise you if you give me that opportunity I'll
19 be extremely brief.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I didn't quite get
22 him.

23
24 MR. RUNFOLA: I'm calling from Fish and
25 Game, Dave Runfola, Subsistence Division. And I'd like
26 to fill in on the agenda, an agency report for Fish and
27 Game. I just have one brief item to add that's of
28 interest fishermen in the Kuskokwim this summer.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may go ahead
31 with your report then.

32
33 MR. RUNFOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 So my name is Dave Runfola, some of you
36 might remember me from the summer. Those who worked
37 with me in the Kuskokwim River. I work with Fish and
38 Game Subsistence Division. We will continue to
39 cooperate with Fish and Wildlife Service and the tribes
40 and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
41 and working group to work with -- to get more
42 information about fishing and needs of subsistence
43 fishermen in-season, and so we're going to continue to
44 do that in the coming years.

45
46 The one item that I would like at least
47 provide a brief announcement amount is that in March
48 2017, the Alaska Board of Fisheries established a new
49 regulation that gives the Alaska Department of Fish and
50

1 Game the option to issue king salmon subsistence
2 fishing permits to Alaska residents who would like to
3 fish in State waters. So that would be from Aniak up
4 stream. And we, our division, Subsistence Division and
5 the Division of Commercial Fisheries will be providing
6 more information this winter, hopefully get everything --
7 all the information out that we can as quickly as
8 possible about these permits. They're free. And they
9 will give households an opportunity to catch up to 10
10 king salmon when there are closures. So even when king
11 salmon fishing will be closed due to conservation it
12 still will be possible for households to get a permit
13 and go fishing in the Kuskokwim and catch up to 10 king
14 salmon.

15
16 So I just wanted to make sure that that
17 announcement was made.

18
19 I didn't listen to the entire meeting
20 so I apologize if you've heard this already. But more
21 information about the permits will be coming this
22 winter. We will be getting out to communities to make
23 sure that everybody has all the information they need
24 to get those permits. And like I said, they're free,
25 and anybody can use them in State waters.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. And do you
30 have any questions.

31
32 Mr. Charles.

33
34 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 So that plan to close the same areas like Johnson River
36 and (In Yup'ik) and those others, is that the same
37 areas?

38
39 MR. RUNFOLA: Through the Chair. Mr.
40 Charles. Right now I can't say whether or not the
41 mouths of those streams are going to be open or closed,
42 there hasn't been any decision made yet as to what the
43 status of subsistence fishing will be this summer as
44 far as whether or not it's going to be open or closed,
45 gillnets, and what -- when it would be closed. We do
46 know that the one the State does expect have fishing
47 remained closed until -- well, the earliest that we can
48 open subsistence salmon fishing would be June 12th and --
49 but other than that we haven't -- you know we don't

50

1 have anything standing or anything planned. But we'll
2 have more information about that in the future.

3
4 The permits will be valid from the
5 Refuge boundary near Aniak and up stream of there. So
6 in those Lower River areas that you're talking about,
7 the permit will not be valid for fishing down there,
8 but I can't say whether or not those river mouths will
9 be open or closed.

10
11 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
14 for ADF&G.

15
16 Mr. Oney.

17
18 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman.

20
21 Dave, you mentioned that you're going
22 to be allowing permits for chinook salmon in times of
23 closure, I'd like for you to also consider the mesh
24 size and the mesh depth because we heard earlier that
25 the water temperature and the abundance of chinook were
26 swimming way deep, deep in the water so I'd like for
27 you to take that into consideration when you do issue
28 these permits.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MR. RUNFOLA: Mr. Chair, can I respond.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Continue.

35
36 MR. RUNFOLA: Thank you, Mr. Oney.
37 Just so you know part of this regulation allows the
38 Department to make restrictions or to issue regulations
39 about what kind of gear fishermen can use so it is
40 possible but it has to occur -- all of those options
41 are limited by the laws that are still in effect. So I
42 don't know whether or not what you're asking for can
43 happen, but the Department does have the authority to
44 make gear restrictions or changes in what gear is
45 allowable to a certain extent. So that could be
46 possible this summer but I'm not sure.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
49 questions for ADF&G.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There are.....
4
5 MS. ROGERS: Can I ask him a question.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you can, short
8 and sweet.
9
10 MR. RUNFOLA: Am I still on?
11
12 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Through the Chair, this is Alissa Rogers. Hi, I would
14 like.....
15
16 MR. RUNFOLA: I'm sorry, I can't hear
17 anything.
18
19 MS. ROGERS: One, two, three, can you
20 hear me?
21
22 MR. RUNFOLA: Yes, I can hear you.
23
24 MS. ROGERS: Hi, this is Alissa Rogers.
25 I just wanted to get a quick clarification on your
26 permitting system. Now, is that going to be all
27 Alaskan residents, Kuskokwim residents, Yukon
28 residents, YK-Delta residents, region residents or how
29 are you going to define this permitting system?
30
31 MR. RUNFOLA: It's open to all Alaska
32 residents.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, thank you. Any
35 other.....
36
37 MR. RUNFOLA: Who qualify -- who
38 qualify for.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE:questions.
41
42 MR. RUNFOLA:fishing.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
45 questions.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not then we'll
50

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1 continue on with our agenda. Thank you very much for
2 your report.

3

4 MR. RUNFOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We are going to
7 confirm our winter 2018 meeting date and location.
8 What are those dates and locations, Eva.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. On
11 Page 168 you'll find your winter 2018 meeting and we'll
12 reconfirm those dates.

13

14 Let me just make a quick announcement
15 before I forget, the Federal Subsistence Regional
16 Advisory Application Process is open again. As we
17 discussed earlier, we anticipating new appointments for
18 this Council for this year to come from the Secretary
19 of the Interior mid-December so we'd have new Council
20 members appointed for the winter meeting. This is the
21 application, it's about a one year process. We have
22 several Council members whose terms will run out next
23 year and so I'll be sure to followup with you if you'd
24 like to reapply again, we have an incumbent form.
25 Please help get the word out, you know, if there's
26 interest in your communities, the Regional Advisory
27 Council Applications are open until February 2nd, 2018.

28

29 I just wanted to get that out there to
30 folks.

31

32 Also, to keep in mind, if there's any
33 additional annual report topics that you want to add,
34 as Tim Andrew addressed, it's the entire meeting and if
35 additional issues come up I'll be working on that draft
36 and we'll review that draft as a Council at the next
37 meeting. So if there's additional topics that have
38 come up, bring that to my attention and we'll get that
39 included in the annual report.

40

41 Okay.

42

43 Winter 2018 meeting, so the Council had
44 selected -- boy I need reading glasses.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: March 14th and 15th.

47

48 MS. PATTON: March 14th and 15th. And
49 so this is the upcoming winter meeting and that was

50

1 selected to be in Bethel.

2

3 So we just need a reconfirmation if the
4 Council wants to keep those dates and location.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: In the form of a -- go
7 ahead, Mr. Aloysius.

8

9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I would move
10 that we still have that same date that we chose last
11 time.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. A motion's been
16 made on the floor to confirm that our meeting, winter
17 meeting will be on March 14th and 15th. Do I hear a
18 second to the motion.

19

20 MR. BILL: Second.

21

22 MR. ULAK: In Bethel.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Bill.
25 Any further discussion.

26

27 MR. ULAK: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for,
30 all in favor say aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed, same
35 sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried. And
40 now we need to select 2018 fall meeting date and
41 location.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Fall 2018 and I did hand
44 out an updated map so a couple Councils have already
45 selected their winter meeting dates. Western Interior
46 did select October 11th and 12th and the Southeast
47 meeting is also that week, so we can only hold two
48 Council meetings per week so essentially that week is
49 out. But the rest of the window, the meeting window is

50

1 open for the Council's consideration.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any suggestions for
4 the winter, Mr. Aloysius.

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I move that
7 we select September 27 and 28 in 2018 for our fall
8 meeting.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 27 and 28, any
11 discussion. September 27 and 28 has been suggested.

12

13 Any opposition.

14

15 (No opposition)

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, you
18 want to make a motion to that effect.

19

20 MR. ALOYSIUS: I did.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, you did.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made,
27 sorry, to have our winter meeting on September 27 and
28 28.

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Fall meeting.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fall season meeting on
33 September 27 and 28. Do I hear a second.

34

35 MR. PETERS: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
38 Peters. Any further discussion.

39

40 MR. ULAK: Question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for,
43 all in favor say aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed, say nay.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.

2

3 MS. PATTON: And a location. Does the
4 Council have a recommendation for a location.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Location. Location.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Always Bethel.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bethel. Bethel.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: We have no choice.

13

14 MS. PATTON: We can still ask and we
15 will do a cost analysis and advocate if you want to
16 meet somewhere else but it's the Council's
17 recommendation.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We will meet in Bethel
20 unless motioned otherwise.

21

22 Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We will meet in
25 Bethel unless otherwise informed.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Quyana.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You're welcome.
30 Closing comments.

31

32 We will start from my right. Mr.
33 Peters, do you have any closing comments.

34

35 MR. PETERS: I'd like to thank
36 everybody. I think it's been a very productive meeting
37 and I would like to thank our Chair for having the
38 coordinator take care of our travel early to get here.
39 I know coming in was kind of rough weather and rain and
40 so there are a lot of issues that were brought up and
41 I'm glad that everybody -- we worked it out together.
42 And for the agencies, I would like to thank all of you
43 for your help and with all the Departments also.

44

45 And what I'm saying is that sometimes
46 there's questions that come to the managers, it's not
47 personal from me, but, you know, it comes from -- the
48 people ask me to bring up some of these questions and
49 thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

50

1 Everybody have a safe trip home.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Peters.

4

5 Mr. Oney.

6

7 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Likewise, I'd like to thank everyone for being here for
9 this meeting. All the organizations that give their
10 reports, thank you very much, and also to all the
11 members that were able to make it and those that didn't
12 make it that participated in the teleconference.

13

14 We look forward to brighter days up
15 ahead is the only thing I can say by continuing to work
16 together with different agencies, different
17 organizations. I'm sure we'll see greener pastures as
18 we did this past summer. I'm sure things will work out
19 in the long run as long as we work together and unify
20 to address the concerns that we have, not only to this
21 Board, but throughout the organizations that advocate
22 for our fish and game in our area.

23

24 And, again, I want to thank Eva for her
25 hard work in setting up our meetings here in Bethel and
26 doing all the arrangements for travel and thank you for
27 the people that participated.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Oney.

32

33 Mr. Ulak.

34

35 MR. ULAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36 It's been good the last two days, two meeting days. A
37 lot of feedback from the Staff and us and good meeting.

38

39 It's always good to hear from Bob, too.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. ULAK: So thank you very much.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Ulak.

46

47 Dorothy do you have -- Ms. Johnson.

48

49 MS. JOHNSON: Well, I'd like to thank

50

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1 Fish and Game or whoever it was that allowed us to get
2 the chinook that we got during the summer. It was -- I
3 was so happy I almost forgot how to cut it, I had to
4 have my mom help me. I mean, you know, but thank you so
5 much that was a wish come true.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 And you all have a good winter.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Dorothy.

12
13 Mr. Brown.

14
15 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

16
17 INTERPRETER: I want to thank you guys,
18 especially ADF&G and all the other Federal agencies
19 regarding our concerns that you did listen to our
20 concerns and giving us an avenue to voice our concerns.
21 And also I want to thank ADF&G, that if you are going
22 to change any of the regulations please consider the
23 Kuskokwim, the mouth of the Kuskokwim is pretty wide
24 and there are no channels there so fishing is different
25 there. And I know that this summer, the residents of
26 Eek were happy that there was fishing open at the mouth
27 of the Kuskokwim River and so they saved a lot of gas
28 and there's a lot of people that are not able to go out
29 on long trips anymore so they really appreciated the
30 opening of the salmon season down at the mouth of the
31 Kuskokwim River. And so please continue opening that
32 area and they were very thankful for that and please do
33 not forget to consider opening that by itself.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

38
39 Ms. Cleveland.

40
41 MS. CLEVELAND: I thank God those
42 people that came and talked to us, answer our questions
43 and explain anything that we don't understand or have
44 misunderstood before.

45
46 Quyanana.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Annie.

49
50

1 Mr. Aloysius.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. First, I
4 apologize for being so damn emotional at times and I
5 get, Ahhhh, you know what I mean.

6

7 But one thing that I forgot during our
8 comments earlier is the Whitefish Lake is still
9 unenforced. The restrictions on Whitefish Lake are
10 still unenforced so think about that.

11

12 I have an answer to bad weather drying
13 salmon.

14

15 I converted a two tier electric dryer
16 to a four tier and it works. I can use that thing
17 24/7, 365 days a year. And what I do is -- what I
18 don't dry in that electric dryer is freeze them until I
19 have time to lay them and dry them again, so it works.
20 It works really well and it doesn't take three weeks to
21 dry a salmon, overnight, easy.

22

23 Oh, man, one thing, you know, I have to
24 say this again, don't forget our old people. We call
25 them old people. We don't call them elders, elder's is
26 a White man word, so I'm getting to be one of those old
27 people and we know a lot of things about what the
28 salmon were and what happened, and especially what
29 happened and it's frightening what has happened over
30 the years. I know that many of you won't understand
31 when I say, when we process our harvest and process
32 salmon for the winter, it's -- you call it in the
33 smokehouse, well, one time I saw an old couple living
34 in the smokehouse so that the salmon would be taken
35 care of 24/7 and it really stuck with me all these
36 years. They were sincere in making sure that that
37 salmon was taken care of properly so they lived in the
38 smokehouse. They had their own little corner, they
39 rolled out their moose hide at night, and rolled it
40 back up in the morning and they had their little own
41 cooking fire right there, so, you know, think about it,
42 they were really sincere in making sure that their
43 salmon was dried properly and that you could smell
44 that, AHHHH, and like I always end, you know, we know a
45 thing or two because we've seen a thing or two and that
46 is the truth. You have to think about that, to honor,
47 me and the people of my age who know a thing or two
48 because we've seen a thing or two.

49

50

1 Quyana.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

4 Aloysius.

5

6 Mr. Charles, do you have a closing
7 statement, closing comment.

8

9 MR. CHARLES: I just want to thank
10 everybody for being here and I'm sorry I was late
11 because of the weather.

12

13 Quyana.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

16 Charles.

17

18 Mr. Andrew, do you have a closing
19 comment.

20

21 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 You know first of all I'd like to thank
24 the Staff for putting this together and our Office of
25 Subsistence Management for all the reports along with
26 the State Staff. They did a great job of putting
27 together with helping us getting the meeting through.
28 And especially for Tom for shuttling us around town and
29 taking us to a place to eat and bring us back over
30 here.

31

32 This summer was the toughest year for
33 most families along the Kuskokwim River, we weren't
34 able to fish during May and June. We only had two
35 openings in June, the first one was not too good but
36 during the second some of them got lucky and they did
37 great, but got caught in the rainy season and some
38 families said they didn't dry to well, their fish
39 spoiled. And later on after they lifted the
40 restrictions, after July 7 some households learned how
41 to target other species like they were targeting more
42 on chums and more on reds and even during the rainy
43 season some of those families I've seen at the village
44 built small smokehouses right in the village, small
45 smokehouses and small fish racks and they were
46 harvesting silvers and other small non-salmon species.
47 Some of them said they did good, it was a learning
48 process for some of them. If they tried, they could
49 make it, like Bob said, they can use dryers to dry

50

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1 their fish pretty fast. If you stay with your fish
2 right in the village there, you can tend to them real
3 easy. Some of my relatives did that this summer and it
4 worked. Even though we had a pretty tough summer, we
5 made it through.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Bill, closing
10 comments.

11
12 MR. BILL: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman. I would like to thank Fish and Wildlife for
14 opening the hunt for the coastal people and the
15 Interior people, looking forward what's left of the
16 birds that -- in this cold weather before they go
17 south, they can hunt without the heavy over umbrella on
18 their heads, they've been doing that for years, we've
19 been trying to hunt for anything with the heavy
20 umbrella over our heads, now it's gone. And I want to
21 thank Fish and Wildlife on this.

22
23 I wish this is the start that you and
24 the people of Western Alaska or Interior, that when you
25 work together without shouting at each other. Thank
26 you, very much.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. I would
29 like to thank everybody that's here. You know, without
30 our public here to drive us on, to develop these
31 proposals that we have, that we work on, we wouldn't be
32 here. And some of us might not -- we might be enjoying
33 it more but.....

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE:but we do enjoy
38 being here. I do enjoy working with the Regional
39 Advisory Council. And one thing that I'd like to do is
40 thank the managers, the fishery managers for taking
41 care of our resources all these years, even though
42 we've complained a lot on the amount of salmon that're
43 allocated to us, but thank you for being the watchdog
44 for the resource that we depend a lot on. If it wasn't
45 for your regulations and the regulations that were
46 developed because of our managers I don't think we'd
47 have the amount of salmon that are coming back to the
48 Yukon that we are having today. And it's because of
49 those regulations, I feel, is the reason why we are
50

1 having some semblance of returning abundance of the
2 chinook and the salmon resources that we have in the
3 river.
4

5 And on top of that I would like to also
6 thank our coordinator for all the work that you do, and
7 all the -- even though, we do, at times might not think
8 that everything that comes out of you is necessarily
9 needed.....
10

11 (Laughter)
12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE:but thank you for
14 all the advice and information that you help us with.
15 And I'd also like to thank the rest of OSM and all of
16 you that are here to help us on with the decisions that
17 we do make. And, Mr. Kron, Pippa, you guys have been
18 here for a long time, I'd like to especially thank both
19 of you and recognize both of you for all the work that
20 you've been putting in and all the years that you've
21 put in into the service and the OSM.
22

23 Thank you, very much.
24

25 And at this time I will need a motion
26 for adjournment.
27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: So moved.
29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made to
31 adjourn, do I hear a second.
32

33 MR. ULAK: Second.
34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All in favor say aye.
36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed.
40

41 (No opposing votes)
42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Meeting's adjourned at
44 5:25.
45

46 (Off record)
47

48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
49
50

